Feb 03, 2024

TechLife NEWS

EUROPE OVERHAUL

APPLE'S EFFORTS TO KEEP USERS SAFE DESPITE DMA

INTO A NEW DIMENSION

VISION PRO: INSIGHTS FROM THE TOP TECH EXPERTS

STAY SAFE

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FEAR YOU MIGHT BE LAID OFF, OR IF YOU'VE LOST YOUR JOB

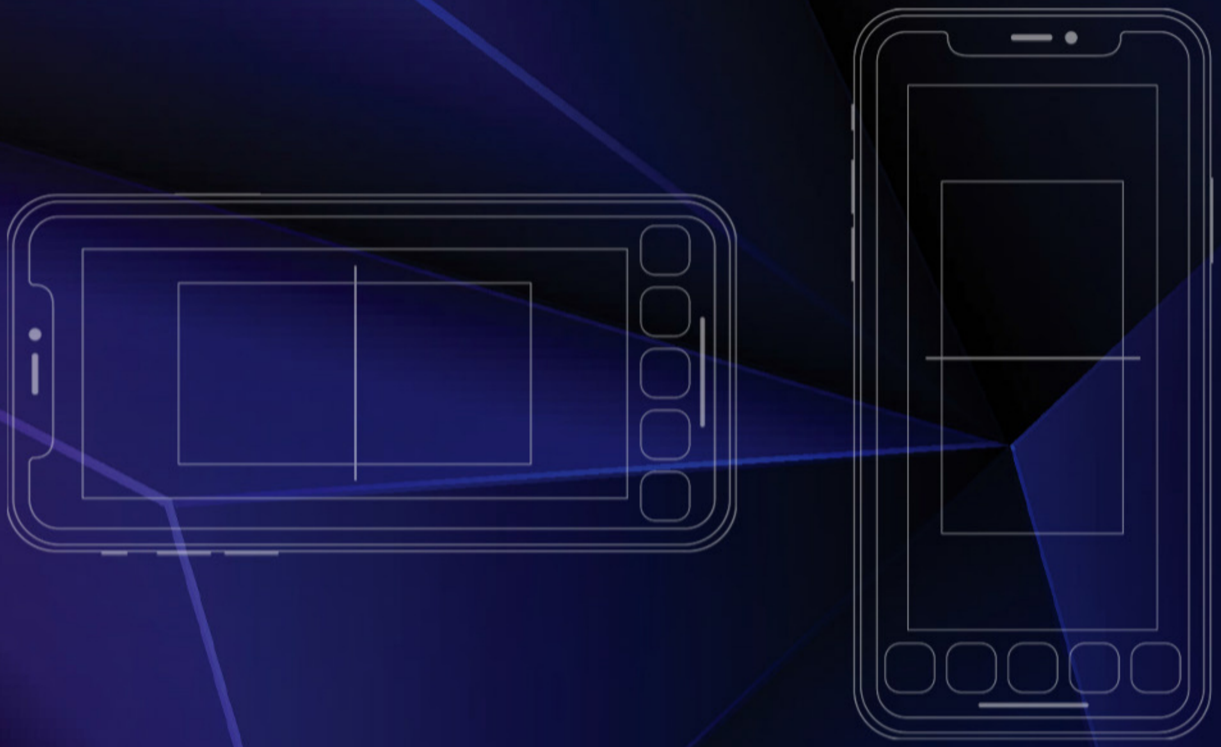
9:41
PhotoArt
photoart.com
Dec 19, 2020
S
SLR, DSLR
64Mp Tech
A
After Effects
Elements
P
Photo &
Graphic
Plugins
the art to create from white to dark, compelling images
Black & White
Single Issue
Subscribe
PhotoArt
Photo
Pro Lens
Nikon + Canon
Phone Pro
Home
Previous Editions
Collection
Breaking News
9:41
Fashion
Week
$6.99
popular aesthetic expression
clothing, footwear, lifestyle, accessories, makeup
trends
Single Issue
Subscribe
Fashion
Fashion
Home
Previous Editions
Collection
Breaking News
Share

A fashion week is a fashion industry event, lasting approximately one week, where fashion designers, brands or "houses" display their latest collections in runway fashion shows to buyers and the media. These events influence trends for the current and upcoming seasons. The most prominent fashion weeks are held in the fashion capitals of the world; New York, London, Milan, and Paris, or the "Big Four" which receive the majority of press coverage.

PublishChannel provides the most well-designed app solution to make your publication independent, offering a powerful channel for subscriptions worldwide.

And you keep all revenues directly from App Store™ sales.

Our exclusive design offers a state-of-the-art user interface that is highly interactive with engaging links to web content, video platforms, apps, podcasts, and more. Your app is fully integrated with the production process, seamless in your workflow.



Designed for

Magazines | Newspapers | News Channels | Video Channels

PublishChannel

The World-Class Solution for Publishing

Visit www.publishchannel.com

Luminar 4

Perfect Photo, Sucky Skies?

AI-powered Sky Replacement - Perfection in Seconds

© Sherwin Magsino

Say Goodbye to Bland and Boring Skies

Get Luminar 4, powered by new and innovative technologies like Accent AI and AI Sky Replacement. Instantly replace skies to change the mood of your photo. No complicated masking or brushes required!

Wherever your creative vision takes you, Luminar has the tools, smarts and style to help you achieve your absolute best.
Your Photography. Elevated.

Grab a copy at l.skylum.com/applemag
Use promo code **APPLEMAG** for $10 off your purchase

©2020 Skylum Software USA, Inc. All rights reserved.

SKYLUM Apple Magazine
OFFICIAL PARTNERS

SUMMARY

SPACE SHUTTLE ENDEAVOUR HOISTED FOR DISPLAY IN LAUNCH CONFIGURATION... **06**

BOEING CUTS ITS 4Q LOSS TO $30 MILLION, BUT THAT WAS BEFORE ONE OF ITS JETS... **16**

LASER STRIKES AGAINST AIRCRAFT INCLUDING AIRLINE PLANES HAVE SURGED TO... **28**

AMEX TRIES TO WIN OVER GRUMPY DELTA CUSTOMERS WITH REVAMPED... **36**

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE CONCERNED YOU MIGHT BE LAID OFF — OR IF YOU'VE... **44**

MICROSOFT PROFIT SOARS 33% ON AI, CLOUD-COMPUTING INVESTMENTS **58**

EU OVERHAUL: APPLE'S EFFORTS TO KEEP USERS SAFE IN EUROPE DESPITE DMA **66**

AMAZON SAYS PRIME DELIVERIES REACHED THEIR FASTEST SPEEDS EVER LAST YEAR **90**

EXPLORING APPLE VISION PRO: INSIGHTS FROM TOP TECH EXPERTS **98**

WHAT YOU ACTUALLY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WINTERTIME DRIVING WITH AN... **112**

GOOGLE'S PARENT POSTS DOUBLE-DIGIT REVENUE GROWTH IN A QUARTER FOR... **120**

ELON MUSK SAYS THE FIRST HUMAN HAS RECEIVED AN IMPLANT FROM NEURALINK... **126**

ELON MUSK CANNOT KEEP TESLA PAY PACKAGE WORTH MORE THAN $55 BILLION... **134**

SCIENCE SLEUTHS ARE USING TECHNOLOGY TO FIND FAKERY AND PLAGIARISM... **144**

DOCUMENTARY ON 'WE ARE THE WORLD' GOES DEEP INSIDE RECORDING SESSION... **156**

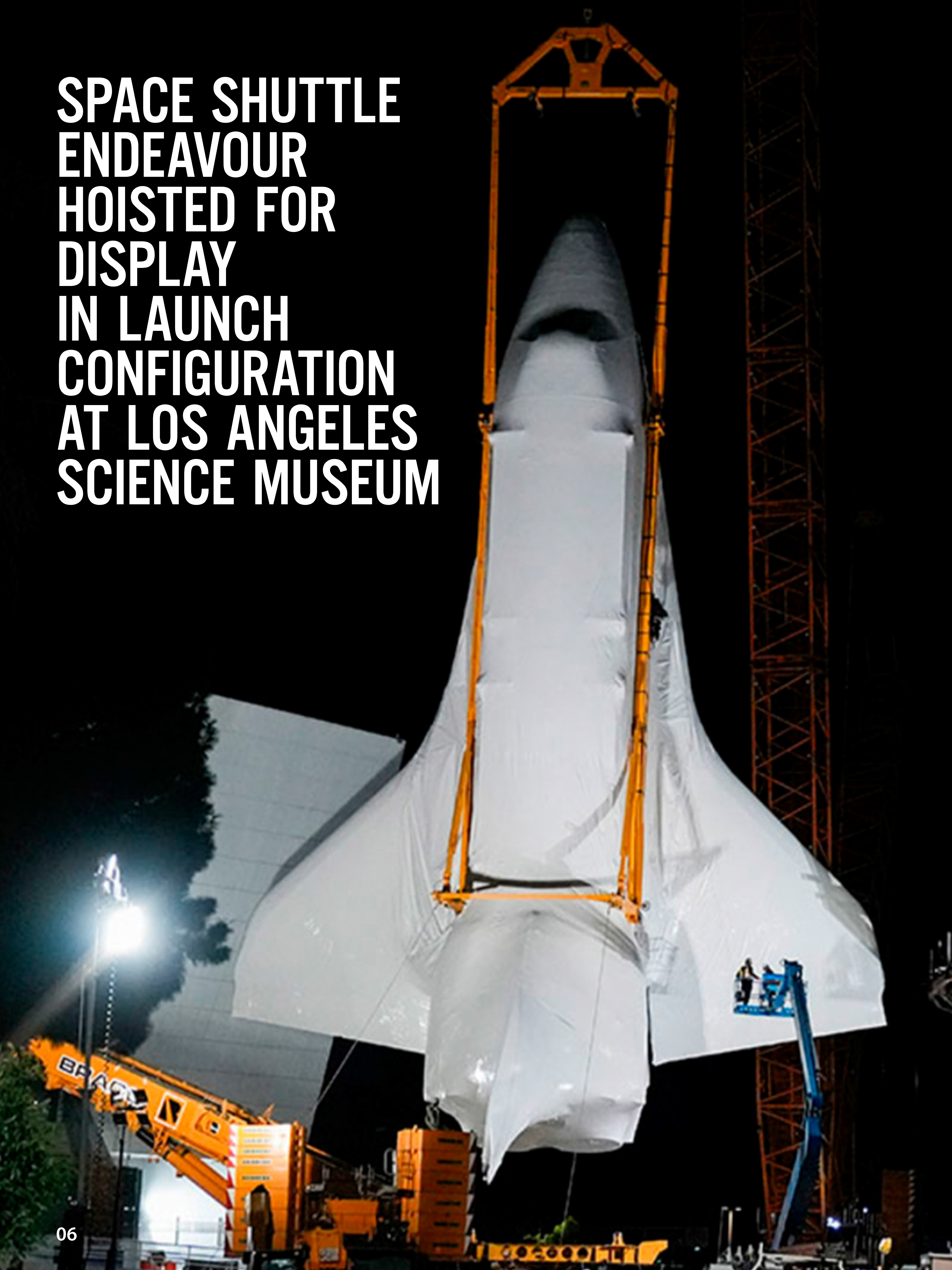
TAYLOR SWIFT, BAD BUNNY AND OTHERS MAY VANISH FROM TIKTOK AS... **168**

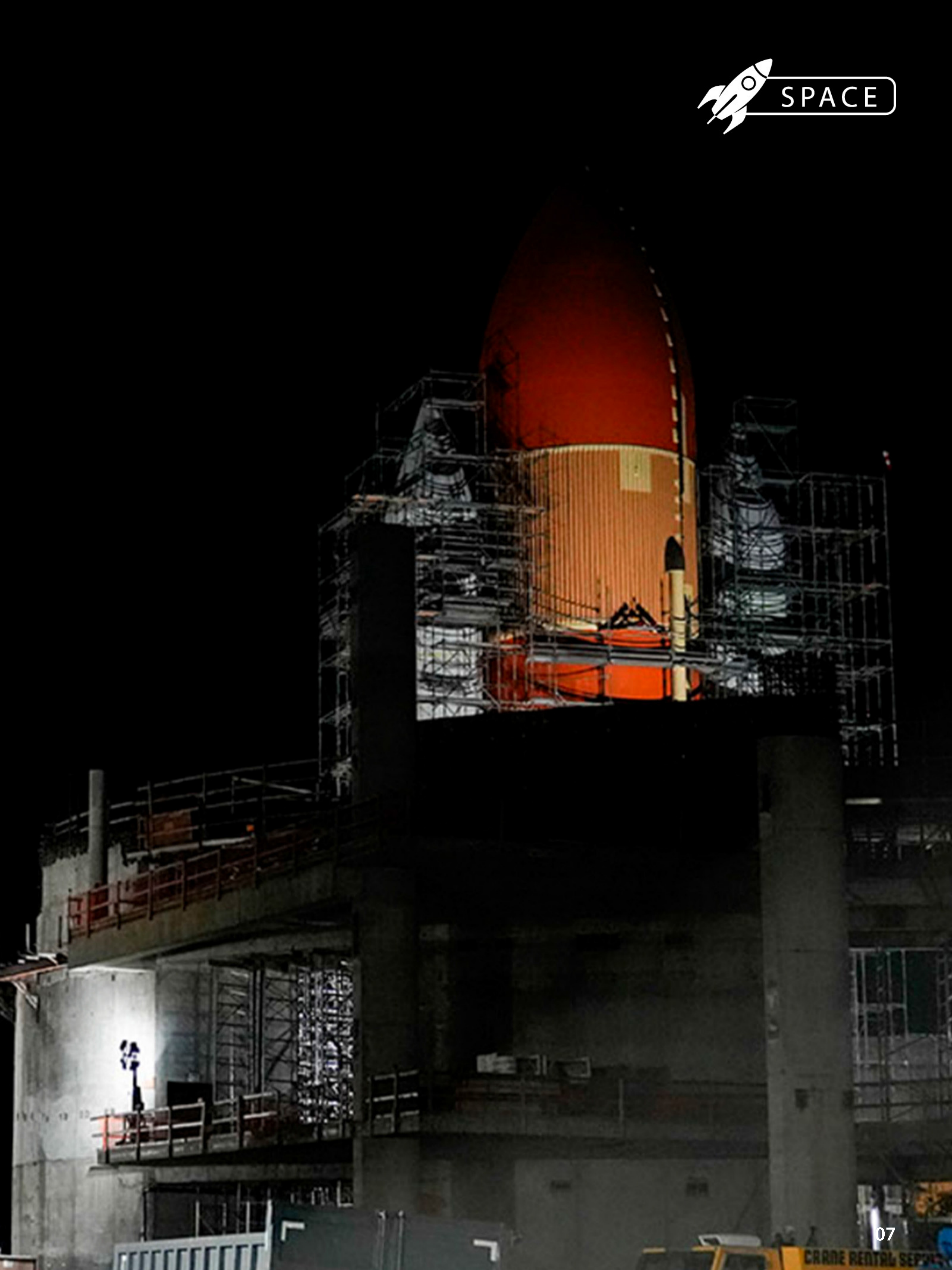
CHATGPT VIOLATED EUROPEAN PRIVACY LAWS, ITALY TELLS CHATBOT... **176**

AMAZON CALLS OFF BID TO BUY VACUUM MAKER IROBOT AMID SCRUTINY IN... **182**

U.S. SETS PLANS TO PROTECT ENDANGERED WHALES NEAR OFFSHORE WIND... **188**

SPACE SHUTTLE ENDEAVOUR HOISTED FOR DISPLAY IN LAUNCH CONFIGURATION AT LOS ANGELES SCIENCE MUSEUM




CRANE RENTAL SE

NASA's retired space shuttle Endeavour was carefully hoisted this week and attached to a huge external fuel tank and its two solid rocket boosters at a Los Angeles museum where it will be uniquely displayed as if it is about to blast off.

A massive crane delicately moved the orbiter, which is 122 feet (37 meters) long and has a 78-foot (24-meter) wingspan, into the partially built Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center at the California Science Center in Exposition Park.

Crews then attached Endeavour, covered in a protective wrapping, to the tank in a process that lasted into the predawn hours Tuesday. The building will be completed around Endeavour before the display opens to the public.

"This is a huge morning for us now," said Jeffrey N. Rudolph, president and CEO of the science center, who estimated it will take up to two years to finish the project.

"The scale of it is something that really amazes people," he said. "Everyone who sees it, even those who've seen the shuttle before, they say wow."

The 20-story-tall display stands atop an 1,800-ton (1,633-metric ton) concrete slab supported by six so-called base isolators to protect Endeavour from earthquakes.

All parts of the vertical launch configuration are authentic components of the shuttle system, including the rust-colored external tank, which was flight-qualified.

"It's incredible," said Larry Clark, a veteran NASA contractor who spent nearly his whole career as a shuttle engineer and is a consultant to the science center's project.

"It brings back a lot of memories for me," he said. "You know, I saw every space shuttle on the launch pad that ever flew as I worked on the launch pad, and to stand here and see it again like this is kind of melancholy."

Clark described the work completed early Tuesday as a "soft mate."

Endeavour flew 25 missions between 1992 and 2011, when NASA's shuttle program ended.

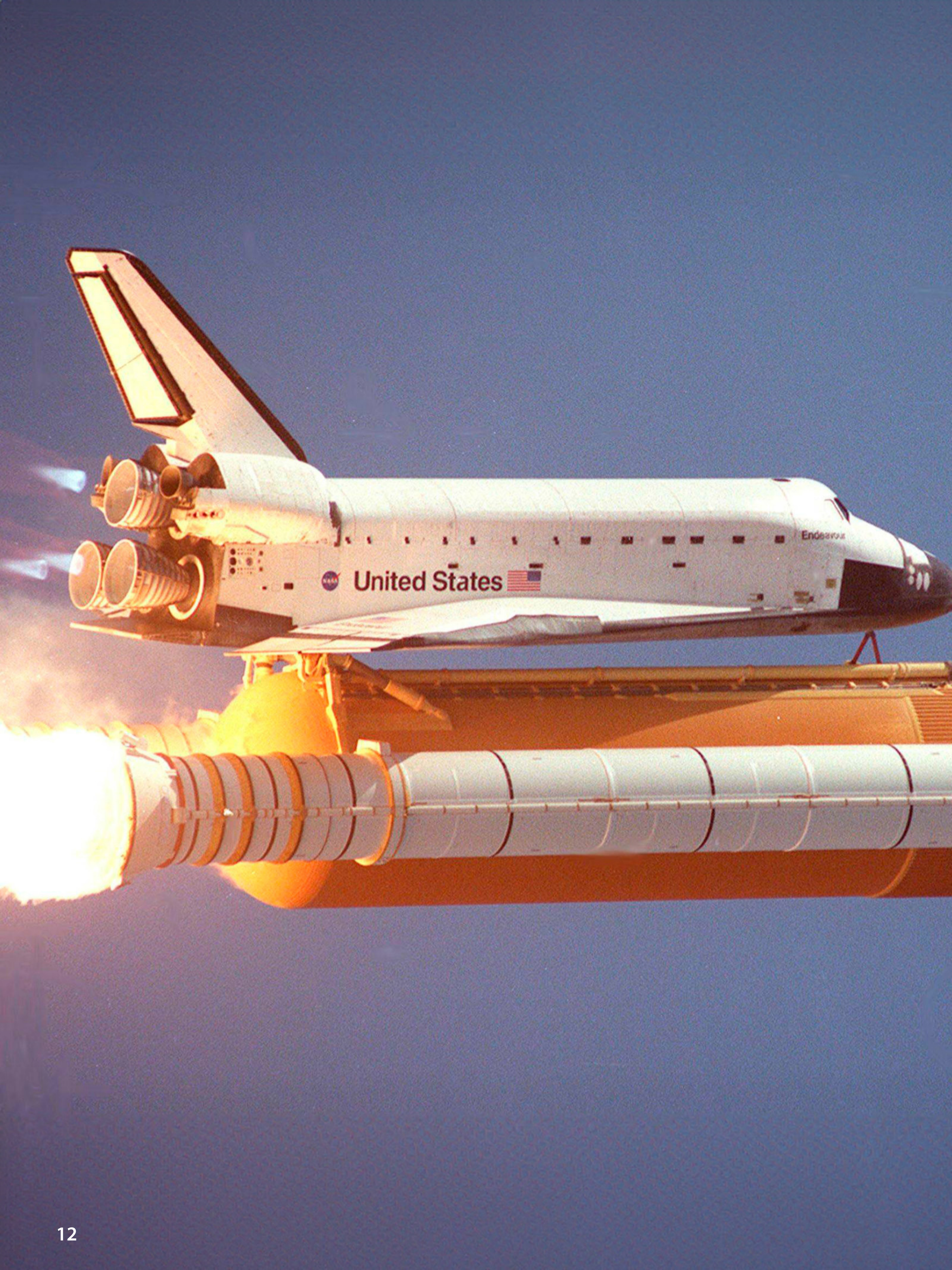
The shuttle was flown to Los Angeles International Airport in 2012 atop a NASA Boeing 747 and then created a spectacle as it was inched through tight city streets to Exposition Park. The external tank arrived by barge and made a similar trip across the city.

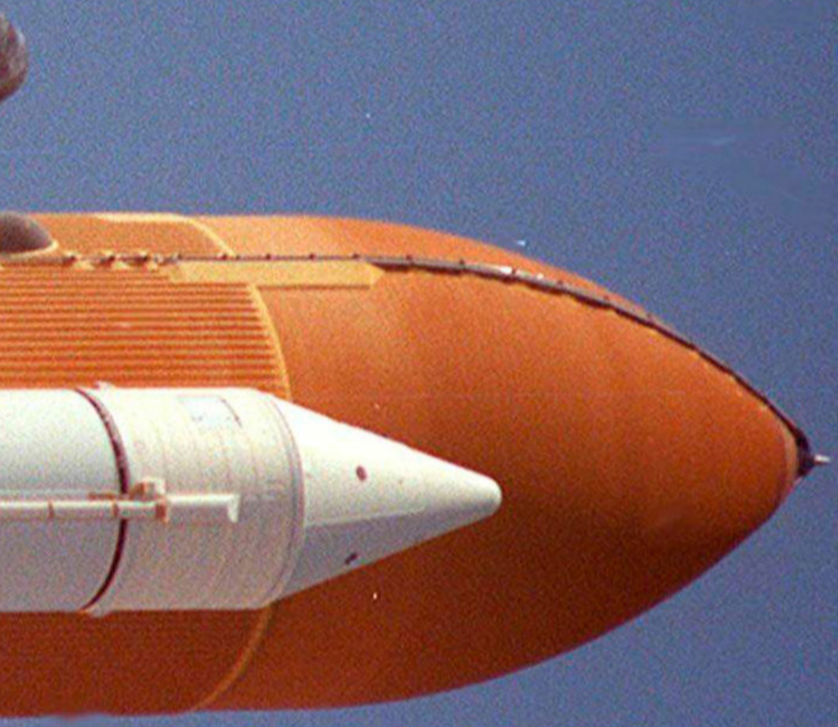
The shuttle was initially displayed horizontally in a temporary exhibit hall. A groundbreaking ceremony for the Air and Space Center was held in 2022 on the 11th anniversary of Endeavour's final return from space.

The process of assembling the shuttle system in vertical configuration was dubbed "Go for Stack," an informal term for putting together rocket components for launch.

It began in July with precise installation of the bottom segments of the side boosters, known as aft skirts, for the first time outside of a NASA facility. In use, the boosters would be attached to the external tank to help the shuttle's main engines lift off.

The 116-foot-long (35.3-meter-long) rocket motors were trucked to Los Angeles from the


Endeavour
NASA
United States



Mojave Desert in October and installed the following month.

In addition to completing the building, about 100 other aircraft and spacecraft will be installed along with numerous interpretive exhibits, Rudolph said. About $360 million of the $400 million cost has been raised.

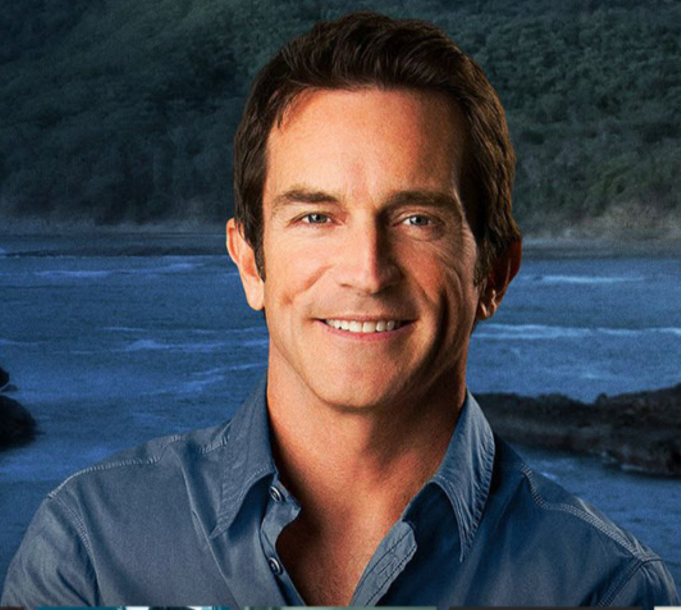
In all, NASA operated five shuttles in space. Shuttle Challenger was lost and its crew of seven died in a launch accident Jan. 28, 1986. Columbia broke apart during reentry on Feb. 1, 2003, killing all seven on board. Retired shuttles Atlantis and Discovery and the test ship Enterprise, which did not go to space, are on display across the country.

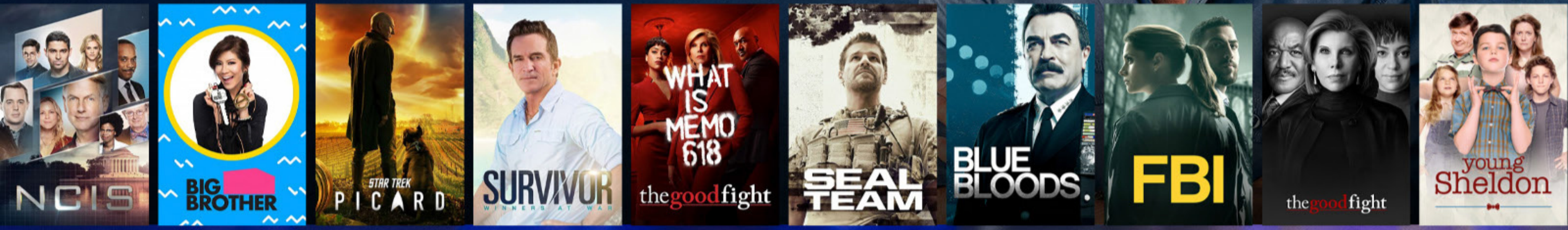
Atlantis is at Kennedy Space Center, Florida, where it is displayed as if in orbit with its payload doors open and robotic arm extended. Discovery rests on its landing gear at the National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia.

Enterprise, which was released from a carrier aircraft for approach and landing tests, is displayed at the Intrepid Museum in New York.

PLAY YOUR FAVORITES

Stream more than 15,000 episodes of your favorite daytime, primetime and late night CBS shows, catch up on classic hits or enjoy exclusive CBS All Access Original Series.




NCIS
BIG BROTHER
STAR TREK PICARD
SURVIVOR WINNERS AT WAR
WHAT IS MEMO 618 the good fight
SEAL TEAM
BLUE BLOODS.
FBI
the good fight
young Sheldon

WATCH IT LIVE

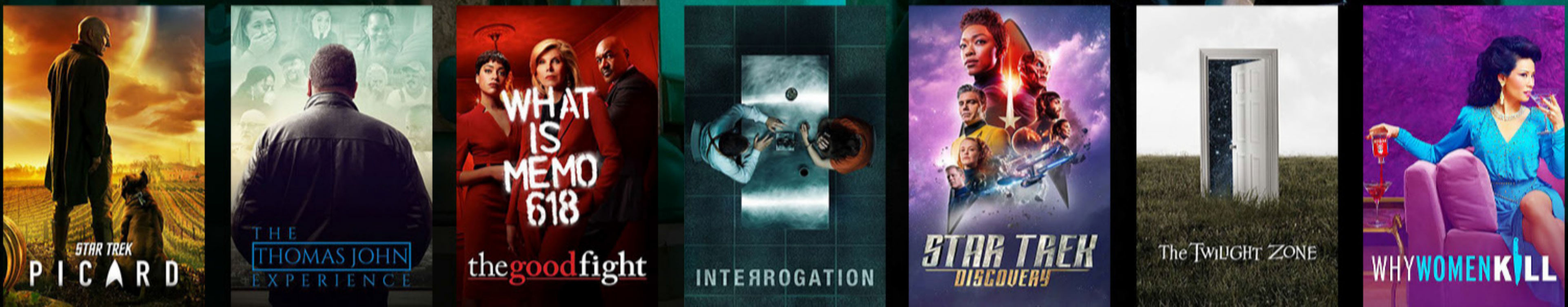
Watch live sports, shows and news at home or on-the-go with your local CBS station, CBSN, CBS Sports HQ and ET Live 24/7.

CBS CBSN CBS SPORTS HQ ET LIVE

LIVE TV
CBSN
CBS SPORTS HQ
ET LIVE

OBCESS OVER ORIGINALS

Get hooked on critically-acclaimed CBS All Access Original Series.


STAR TREK PICARD
THE THOMAS JOHN EXPERIENCE
WHAT IS MEMO 618 the good fight
INTERROGATION
STAR TREK DISCOVERY
The Twilight Zone
WHY WOMEN KILL

STREAM ACROSS SCREENS

It's easier than ever to watch on your phone, tablet, desktop or streaming media player.

iPad iPhone tv android chromecast firetv
LG PS4 Roku SAMSUNG VIZIO XBOX ONE
xfinity

3RD & 11
CBS
MIN
CHI
STAR TREK DISCOVERY

The Twilight Zone
STRANGE ANGEL
LATE SHOW with stephen colbert
young Sheldon
SEAL TEAM
BLUE BLOODS
S.W.A.T.
STAR TREK DISCOVERY
B&B
NCIS
THE Late LATE SHOW JAMES

THOUSANDS OF EPISODES. LIVE TV. ORIGINAL SERIES.

Paramount+

Plans start at $4.99/month. Cancel anytime.

TRY IT FREE

BOEING CUTS ITS 4Q LOSS TO $30 MILLION, BUT THAT WAS BEFORE ONE OF ITS JETS LOST A PANEL IN FLIGHT

Alaska
AIRLINES

Boeing narrowed its fourth-quarter loss to $30 million and increased production of its best-selling plane just before one of them suffered a blowout of a side panel during a flight, an accident that has raised new safety concerns about the aircraft manufacturer.

The loss reported this week was smaller than Wall Street expected, and revenue beat forecasts.

However, the company declined to offer its own forecast of 2024 results — an indication of the uncertainty swirling around Boeing since a 737 Max 9 operated by Alaska Airlines suffered a midflight blowout of a panel called a door plug on Jan. 5.

N979AK
ICELANDAIR

Image: Lindsey Wasson

“While we often use this time of year to share or update our financial and operational objectives, now is not the time for that,” CEO David Calhoun said, while promising that his focus is on improving quality after the Alaska Airlines accident.

Calhoun repeated a vow to help airline customers and “work transparently” with the Federal Aviation Administration, which is investigating quality-control issues at Boeing and its suppliers.

Over many years, Boeing sought to save money by shifting from manufacturing planes to assembling them largely from parts made by suppliers. On the 737, the most important supplier is Spirit AeroSystems, which makes fuselages and installs door plugs — although it is not clear whether Spirit or Boeing last worked on the doomed plug.

Calhoun said Boeing probably went too far in relying on suppliers but remains responsible.

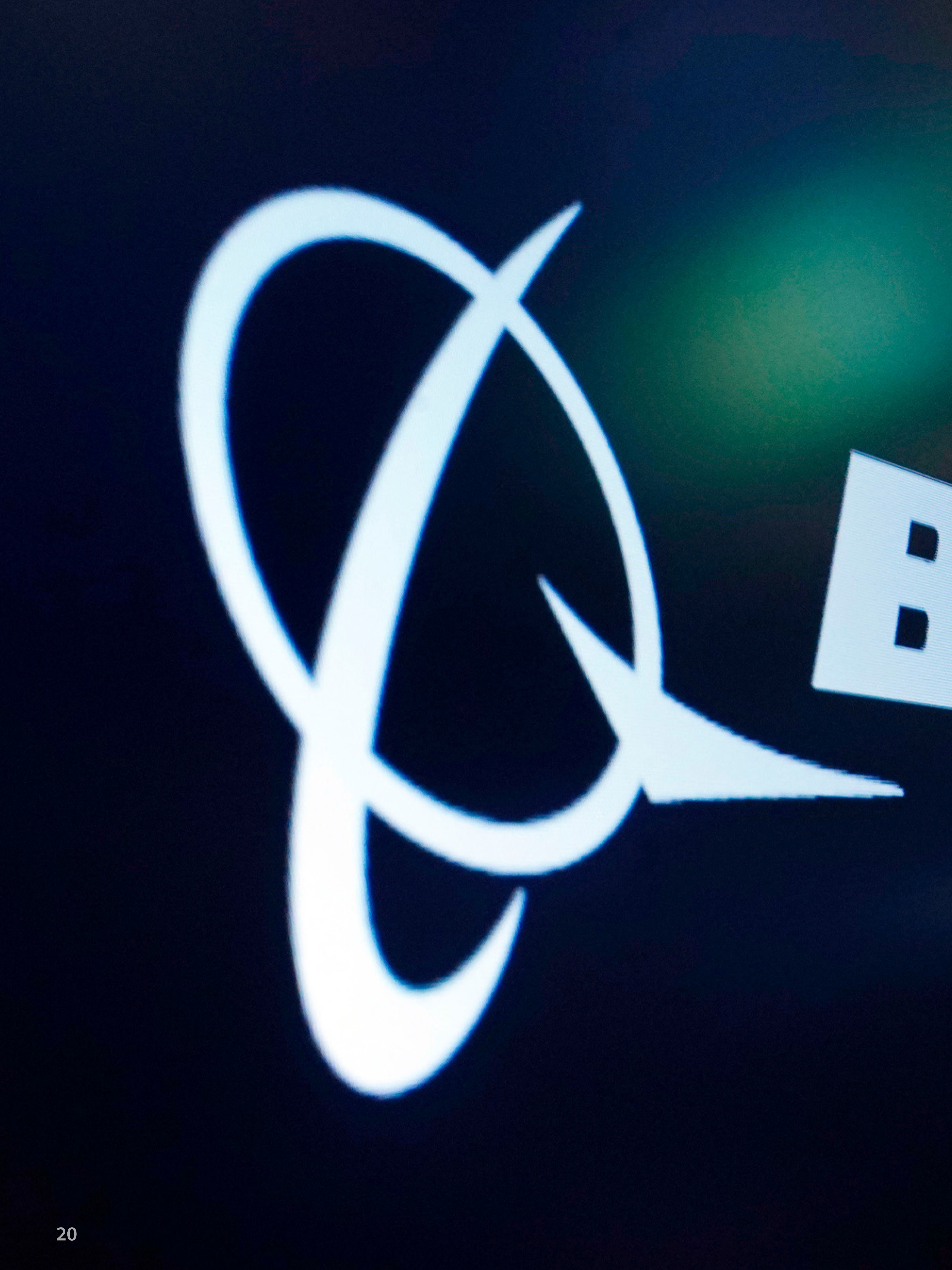
“I want everybody — everybody on every airplane — to know that Boeing owns it. We own our supply chain. We own Spirit. We own the results of our work,” Calhoun said on CNBC.

The fourth-quarter results were an improvement from a loss of $663 million a year earlier. Boeing said that excluding one-time items, it lost 47 cents per share. Analysts surveyed by FactSet had expected an adjusted loss of 78 cents per share.

Revenue rose 10% to $22.02 billion, topping analysts’ prediction of $21.18 billion. Boeing said that at the end of last year, it hit its target of producing 38 737s a month.

N704
UPPER DECK - Max. Load 600 lbs.

Image: Dita Alangkara



BOEING
BA
LISTED
NYSE
INDU
INDP
NYSE
NYA
UTIL
DXY
TNX
TYU
RLX
DRG
-73.54
34,922.64
892.40

Image: Richard Drew

787
BOEING
737
BOEING
737 MAX

Deliveries of new jetliners rose slightly, to 157 from 152 a year earlier, helping the Arlington, Virginia-headquartered company generate cash.

Boeing, however, again finds itself the focus of questions about the safety of its planes since a panel called a door plug blew off an Alaska Airlines Max 9 shortly after takeoff from Portland, Oregon.

The FAA grounded all Max 9s in the United States for nearly three weeks, forcing Alaska and United Airlines to cancel more than 1,000 flights between them. Alaska expects Boeing to cover an estimated $150 million in lost revenue and higher expenses from the grounding, and United has suggested it could drop plans to buy a future 737 model, the Max 10.

The FAA said last week that it won’t let Boeing expand Max production until safety concerns are resolved.

787
DREAMLINER

BOEING
787-10

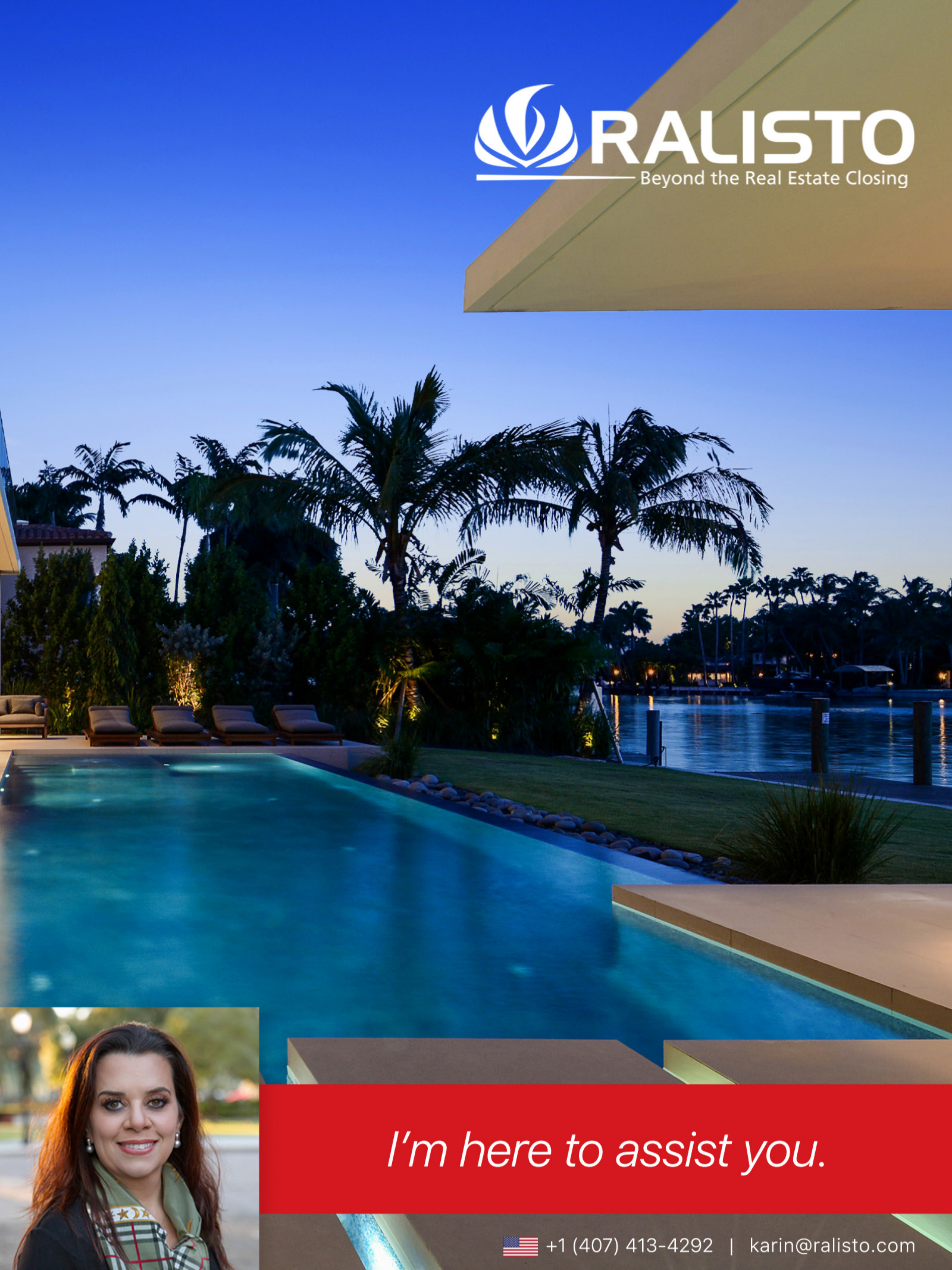
And this week, Boeing dropped a request for an exemption from a safety standard on another future model of 737s, the Max 7. The company wanted to deliver Max 7s to airlines before fixing a flaw in an anti-ice system, but some in Congress opposed the request.

“We believe this withdrawal reflects a ‘read the room’ moment by management in light of (Boeing’s) ongoing quality control problems,” CFRA Research analyst Stewart Glickman wrote in a note to clients. He said the company needs to focus solely on quality control for now, which likely will slow delivery of new planes in 2024.

Boeing shares have been on a roller-coaster ride. They fell 25% from late July to late October, then soared 47% by mid-December, only to fall 24% through Tuesday — most of that since the Max 9 incident.

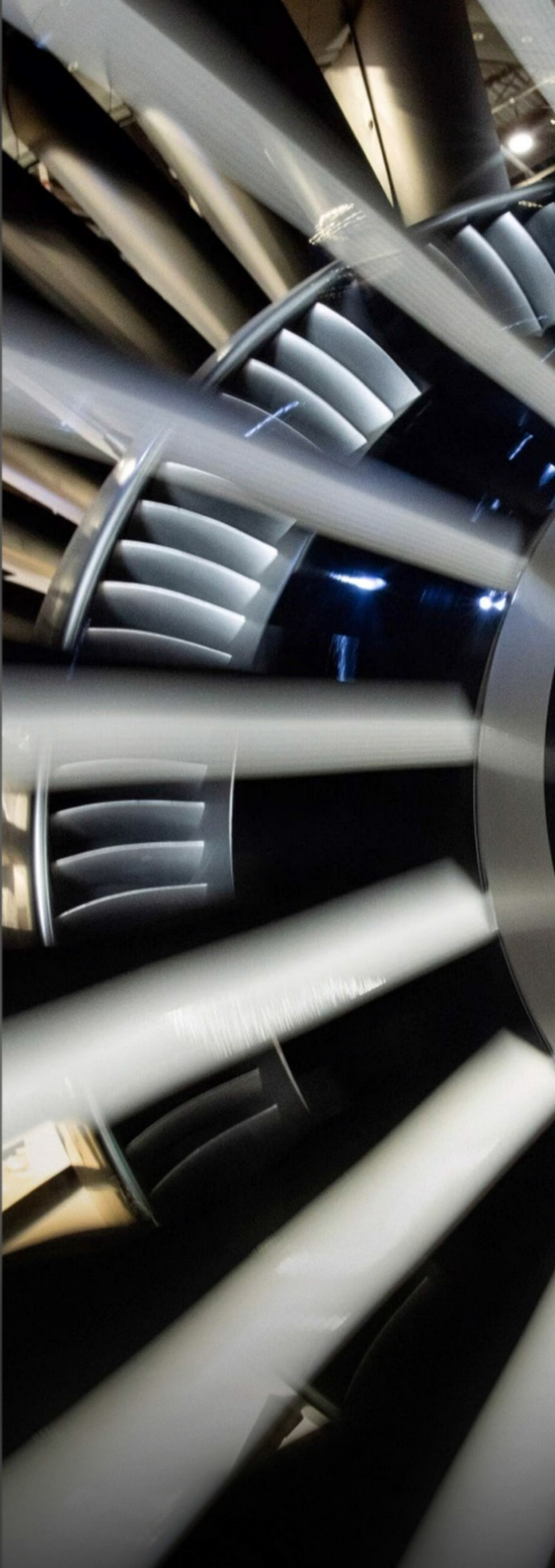
The shares rose 5% in morning trading after the announcement Wednesday.

Your Florida dream house can be a lifetime investment.


RALISTO
Beyond the Real Estate Closing
I’m here to assist you.

+1 (407) 413-4292 | karin@ralisto.com

LASER STRIKES AGAINST AIRCRAFT INCLUDING AIRLINE PLANES HAVE SURGED TO A NEW RECORD, THE FAA SAYS



Laser strikes aimed at aircraft including airline planes surged 41% last year to a record high, according to federal officials.

The Federal Aviation Administration said this week that it received 13,304 reports from pilots about laser strikes last year, erasing a record set in 2021.

“Aiming a laser at an aircraft is a serious safety hazard that puts everyone on the plane and on the ground at risk,” FAA Administrator Mike Whitaker said in a video posted by the agency.

The FAA said pilots have reported 313 injuries since the agency started keeping records in 2010.

NO STEP
02035

Image: Ryan Hermens

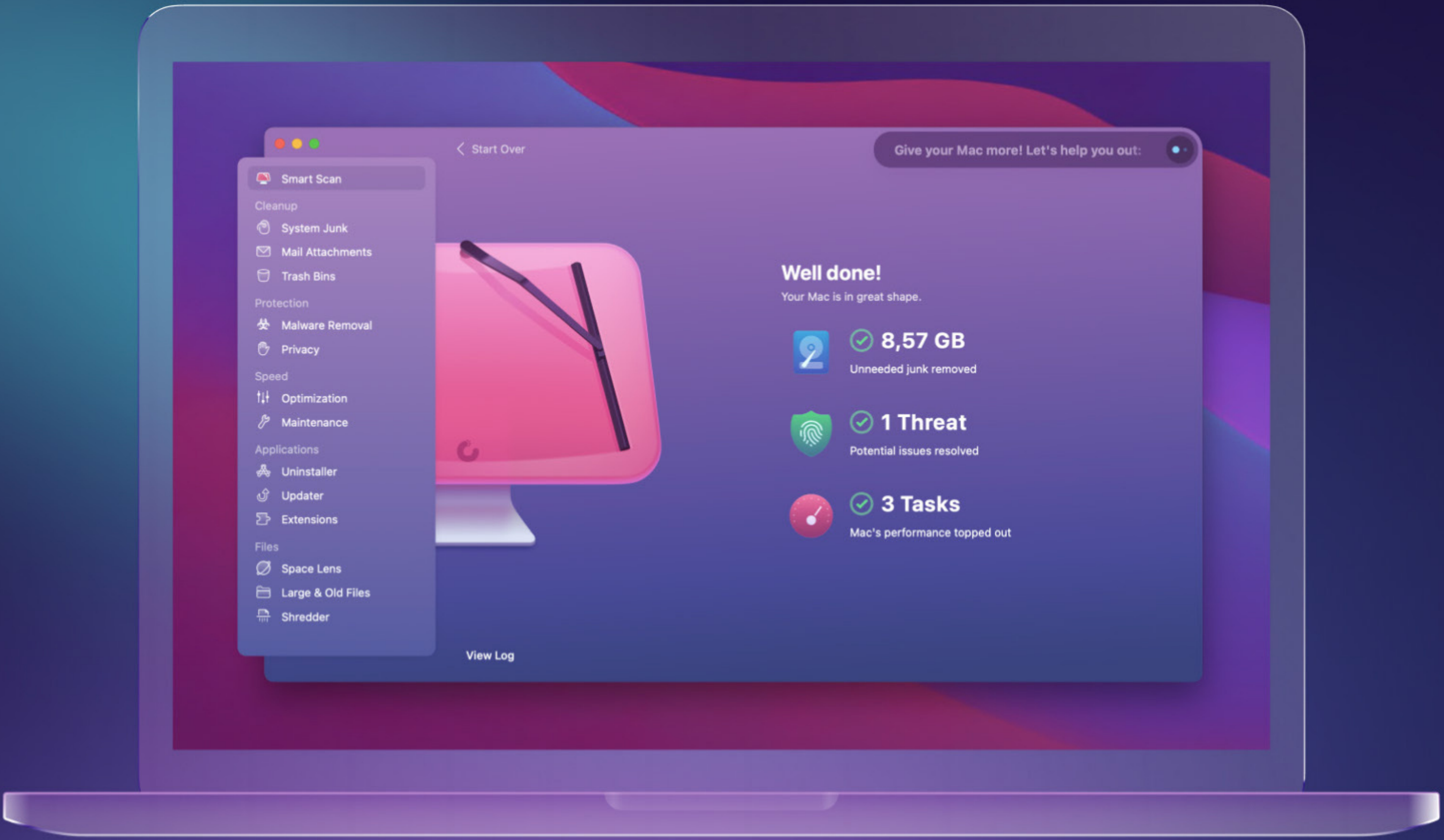
DANG

Each of the last five months of 2023 surpassed the previous high month, November 2021. The full-year rise over 2022 numbers easily topped the 28% increase in reported incidents from 2016 to 2022.

Authorities blame the surge in attacks on factors including the widespread sale of inexpensive lasers in stores and online, stronger devices that can hit planes at higher altitudes, and the increased awareness among pilots to report incidents.

The FAA said it can fine violators $11,000 for each violation, up to $30,800, and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies can file criminal charges.

Laser strikes at aircraft are most common during in the first few hours after midnight, according to FAA data.


Start Over
Give your Mac more! Let's help you out:
Smart Scan
Cleanup
System Junk
Mail Attachments
Trash Bins
Protection
Malware Removal
Privacy
Speed
Optimization
Maintenance
Applications
Uninstaller
Updater
Extensions
Files
Space Lens
Large & Old Files
Shredder
View Log

Well done!

Your Mac is in great shape.

8,57 GB

Unneeded junk removed

1 Threat

Potential issues resolved

3 Tasks

Mac's performance topped out

CleanMyMac X

Your Mac.

As good as new.

Learn More

Coca-Cola store

FREE SHIPPING
ON ALL COKE STORE
ORDERS OVER $60!

www.cokestore.com

AMEX TRIES TO WIN OVER GRUMPY DELTA CUSTOMERS WITH REVAMPED SKYMILES CREDIT CARDS

AMERICAN EXPRESS

American Express rolled out several updates to its Delta SkyMiles credit cards Thursday that will give additional benefits to users, part of efforts to soothe sore Delta Air Lines customers who have considered abandoning the airline after last year’s SkyMiles loyalty fiasco.

The updates, however, will come with a higher annual fee, which AmEx says it believes the new benefits will more than pay for.

New York-based AmEx is adding $200 flight credits to the cards after a certain amount of

DELTA
SKYMILES
© AMEX

AMERICAN EXP
AMERICAN EXPRESS
DELTA
SKYMI

PRESS
DELTA
SKYMILES
LES
Member Since
Member Since

spending, $120 to $240 in restaurant credits at restaurants booked with Resy, as well as $120 to $240 in credits to use on rideshare apps like Lyft and Uber. Higher-end cards will also get $2,500 in "medallion qualifying dollars" that will get users closer to reaching elite status on the airline.

Additionally, Delta cardholders will now be able to use companion certificates on a broader array of flights, including to Hawaii, Alaska, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America, instead of just the continental U.S. There had been complaints that Delta was overly restrictive on the use of these certificates in the past.

Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines and AmEx have had deep corporate ties going back decades, and it's been lucrative for both companies. AmEx customers get access to Delta's airport lounges and are able to transfer their Membership Rewards points to Delta, among other benefits.

In exchange, Delta got $6.8 billion from American Express in 2023 as part of its co-brand credit card partnership. The money comes from the fees AmEx collects from the billions of dollars spend on the cards by cardmembers.

To give a sense of scale, Delta CEO Ed Bastian told investors in June that roughly 1% of the entire U.S. economy is spend on Delta's credit cards.

So, when Delta made alterations to its SkyMiles loyalty program last year, it was largely seen by Delta customers as a watering down of its program. Part of those changes required Delta customers to spend large sums of money on airfare or on the Delta credit card to be given elite status on the airline. Delta was also going to restrict the number of entries a customer could get into their lounges based on status.

Shortly after the announcement, message boards were often full of AmEx customers saying they were ready to cancel their cards due to Delta's changes.

Bastian later apologized for the changes and Delta rolled back some of the proposed changes or delayed them for another year.

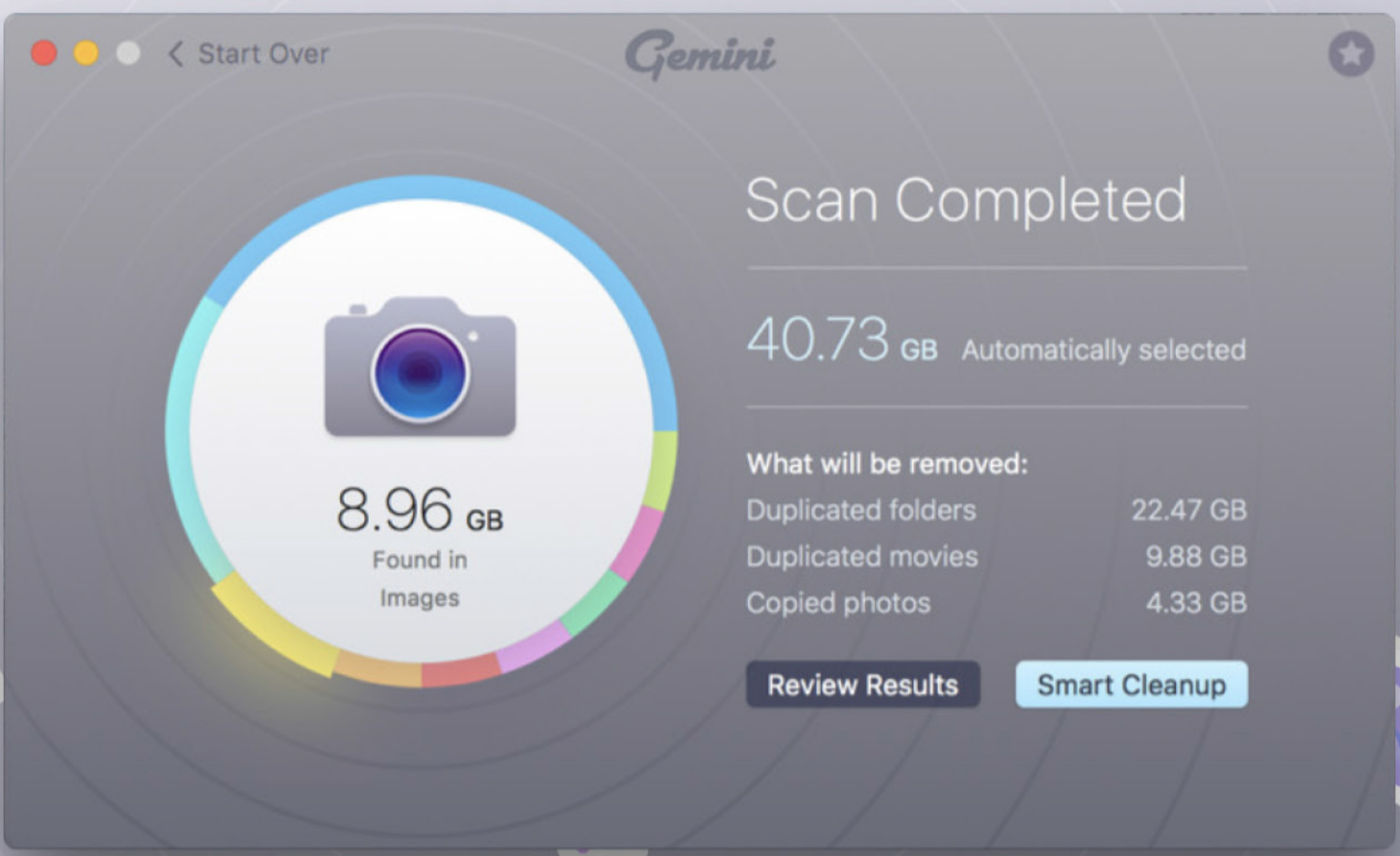
AmEx typically works on refreshing its credit cards with a lead time of 18 to 24 months, so the changes announced Thursday were in the works before Delta made changes to its SkyMiles program. But the changes come at a time when both companies want to make sure those who exclaimed "Done with Delta" on social media after last year's SkyMiles changes remain in the fold.

"These cards offer a host of new benefits to help consumers and business owners get closer to Medallion status, access new credits and more value, and enjoy a premium travel experience," said Howard Grosfield, president of U.S. Consumer Services at AmEx.

With the new benefits come with a higher annual fee. The Delta Gold Card will have a $150 annual fee, up from $99, while the Delta Platinum will be $350, up from $250, and the high-end Delta Reserve will have a $650 annual fee, up from $550.

AMER
First flight 06/
Reg. No. N667
IVY LEE

ICAN EXPRESS
DELTA
SKYMILES®
28/1990
Last flight 11/18/2017
US
Boeing 747-451
Miles flown 68,000,000
7997
Member Since
09
© AMEX


Start Over
Gemini
8.96 GB
Found in
Images

Scan Completed

40.73 GB Automatically selected

What will be removed:

Duplicated folders	22.47 GB
Duplicated movies	9.88 GB
Copied photos	4.33 GB

Review Results
Smart Cleanup

Gemini 2

The intelligent duplicate file finder

Learn more >

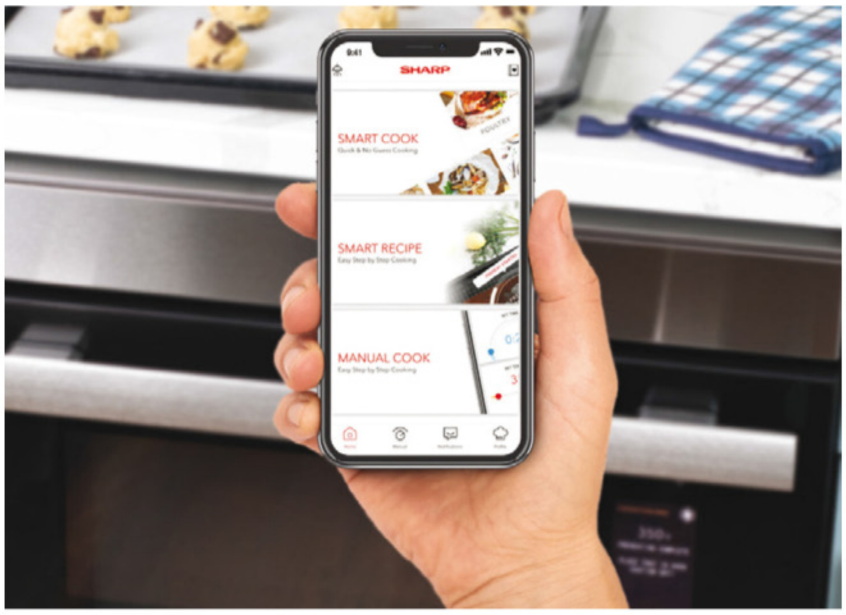
SHARP | Simply Better Living

SUPERSTEAM+™ BUILT-IN WALL OVEN

SSC2489DS

The Sharp® SuperSteam+ Built-In Wall Oven is the start of a cooking revolution. With Wi-Fi enabled IoT features, the innovations within this steam oven are a perfect match for modern cooking needs.

While regular steam only reaches 212°F, the SuperSteam+ oven can create superheated steam up to 485°F. Steam this hot can roast meats and caramelize sugars so your food can be brown and crispy on the outside, tender and juicy on the inside. With the Sharp SuperSteam+ Oven, you can grill without smoke, roast without drying, and get the roasty-toasty, tasty results you desire.



Get started right away with built-in recipes and download the Sharp SuperSteam+ Oven app* to enable the smart features and access custom recipes powered by SideChef.

SEE FOR YOURSELF

STEAM BAKE
SELECT STEAM BAKING OPTION FOR MORE INSTRUCTIONS, SEE MANUAL OR SHARP APP
Breads
Water Bath
MANUAL
BACK
CLEAR

The new Sharp SuperSteam+ Built-In Wall Oven features Steam Bake for superior breads, and Water Bath for cheesecakes, custards and puddings.

www.sharpusa.com | simplybetterliving.sharpusa.com

*Mobile Application and Home Assistant Skill available upon commercial release. © 2020 Sharp Electronics Corporation. All rights reserved. Sharp, Supersteam™ Oven and all related trademarks are trademarks or registered trademarks of Sharp Corporation and/or its affiliated entities. Product specifications and design are subject to change without notice. Internal capacity calculated by measuring maximum width, depth and height. Actual capacity for holding food is less.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU’RE CONCERNED YOU MIGHT BE LAID OFF — OR IF YOU’VE LOST YOUR JOB

Recent mass layoffs from technology and media companies, including eBay, Riot Games and the Los Angeles Times, might have you thinking about your job security.

If you’re worried you could be laid off — or if you’ve lost your job — personal finance professionals and career advisers have recommendations for how to cope. They range from preparing an emergency fund to understanding your severance package.

Los

Angeles Times

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED YOU MAY BE LAID OFF

START SAVING

It’s crucial to start building an emergency fund even when you feel secure at your job, but especially if you think you might lose it.

You might not be able to save enough to cover the whole time you’ll be out of work, but even a small amount can reduce your stress.

When you start thinking about saving, Jesse Mecham, founder of the money management app YNAB, recommends you ask yourself this question: What do I want my money to do?

Maybe a year ago, you wanted to save for a trip abroad, while now you want to have money in case you are out of work for six months.

If you are aggressively paying off debt and it’s affecting your ability to save, Mecham recommends slowing down payments. You should still make at least the minimum payment, but you might want to consider temporarily using any money you’ve been paying over that to build an extra cash cushion so you have money available should you need it. It’s also crucial to avoid getting into further debt, Mecham said.

UPDATE YOUR RESUME

It’s always a good idea to keep your resume up to date but, but you should also keep it customizable for several jobs, said Scott Dobroski, career trends expert for Indeed. You can do this by leaving space in your resume to include keywords that are specific to the job you are applying for.

Jobs might require slightly different skills if you are planning to stay in the same industry, or completely different skills if you move to another field. If you keep your resume updated and customizable, it could make things easier when you need to move on.

Etienne Lupine, 46, a software engineer at Keysight, was recently notified that she will be laid off by the end of the month. Soon after hearing the news, she decided to work on updating her resume and LinkedIn page.

Lupine had worked at the company almost eight years and, while the news affected her, she felt a sense of empowerment when she was updating her resume.

“I can’t control losing my job but I can try to present myself in the best possible way,” said Lupine, a resident of Lafayette, Colorado.

ACTIVATE YOUR NETWORK

Tapping into connections in your industry now is a good idea, said career coach Marlo Lyons. Talking with your friends about possible job openings elsewhere could give you a head start.

ADD TO YOUR SKILL SET

Gaining new skills and adding certifications or courses to your resume can be a good way to move up in your current job. If you think you might have to go somewhere else, look for the skills that will make you a stronger candidate, Lyons said. Whether it’s taking a free online course or signing up to get a specific license, adding to the skills listed on your resume will have benefits whether you stay in your current job or have to look for another one.

Websites including Coursera and edX offer courses and certifications from universities around the U.S. They offer some of the courses for free.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN LAID OFF

PRIORITIZE YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

Your mental health can be heavily affected after a job loss. Take a breath and let yourself feel the emotions. Prioritizing your mental health will allow you to approach your job search in a better way, Dobroski said.

For Lupine, putting her mental health first means focusing on the positive aspects of a new chapter in her life, rather than dwelling on how hard it will be to leave a job she loves.

“I’ve been trying not to focus too much on the negative feelings about it, because I know that getting upset isn’t going to make it any easier for me to make a fresh start,” Lupine said.

MAINTAIN A ROUTINE

Keeping some structure in your day will help you with your mental health and with the right cadence of applying to jobs, Mecham said.

Planning your days so they include eating at your usual time, working out or going for a walk, and applying for jobs for a certain number of hours will keep you grounded, he said. Lyons recommends designating a time during the day to start and end applying for jobs.

“Do not over-exhaust yourself with applying to jobs,” Lyons said. “Take time to do activities that make you feel good.”

Lupine has been leaning into her hobbies to feel better. Her regular activities include baking, cooking and going to her curling club.

"I'm not stress eating. I'm stress baking because I just keep cooking things like, 'Oh, what's this new recipe that'll make me feel better?,'" Lupine said.

CHECK YOUR BENEFITS

It's crucial that you understand your compensation package and save any documentation that you need to understand your benefits after you've been laid off. Some especially important things to know are your health insurance and dental benefits, Dobroski said.

In the last couple of weeks of employment, Lupine has been making sure that she has enough of her prescriptions for a couple of months, as she has Type 1 diabetes.

"I don't want to get myself into a situation where I don't have enough insulin or contact lenses or things to keep living in a healthy way while I'm in this transitional period," Lupine said.

NETWORK

Reaching out to your professional and personal network can be helpful, and it's useful to give some direction to friends and colleagues who want to help, Lyons said.

Examples include asking them to write you recommendations on LinkedIn, recommend you for a job or invite you to a conference for free.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

It can be hard to talk about losing your job, and you should only share if you feel comfortable. But

sharing can help by allowing you to lean on your support system.

When Lupine found out that she was laid off, she was texting with a good friend of hers who quickly made her feel better by understanding her way of coping with hard things: humor.

APPLY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

Applying for unemployment is an option that everyone should utilize, Lyons said. While the amount you get for unemployment might not be as much as your salary, it can help you to stay afloat for some time.

“Companies you worked for are required to pay state and federal tax which provide unemployment benefits,” Lyons said. “Don’t be shy about collecting it.”

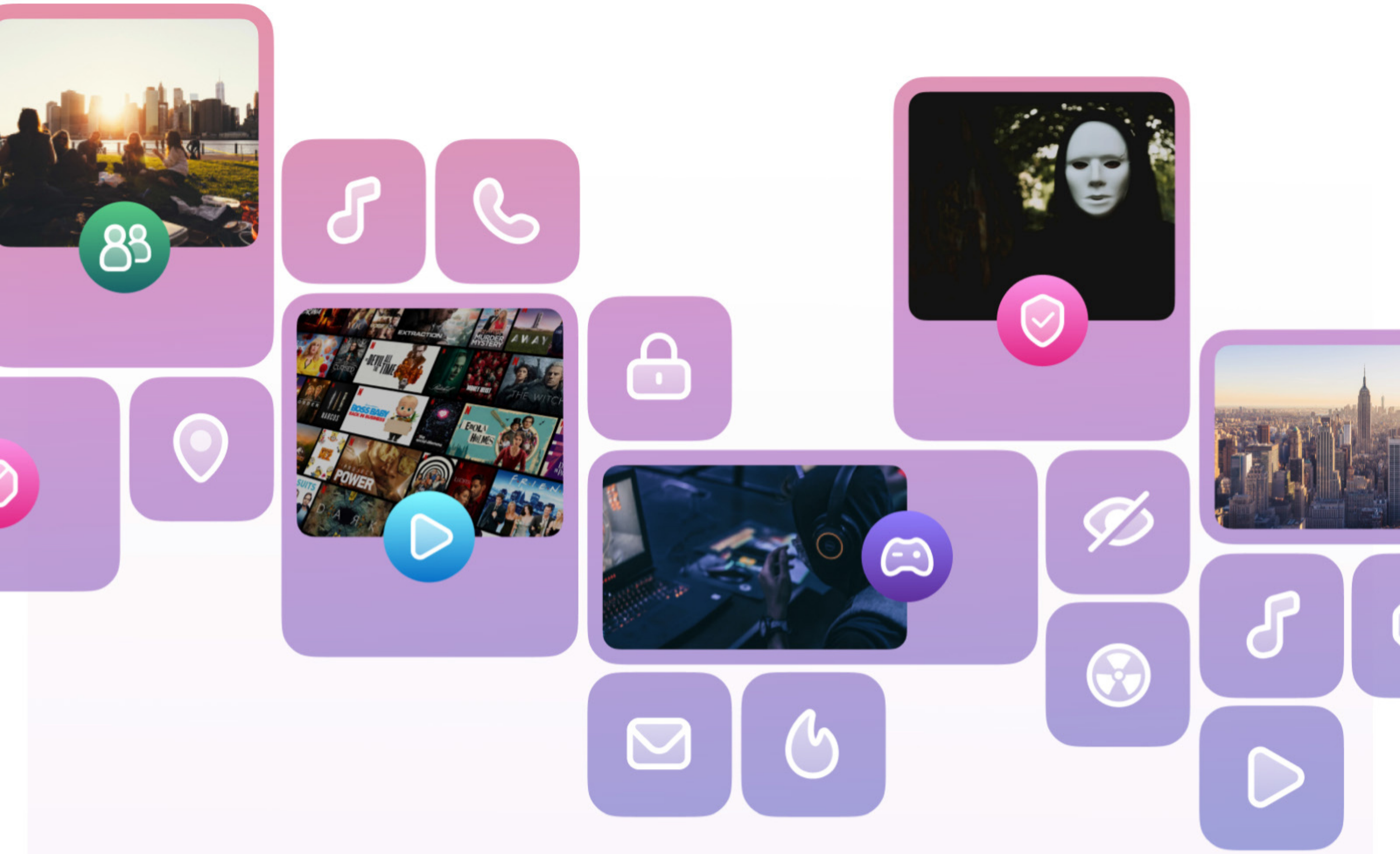
The Labor Department has tips on applying for unemployment.

CONSIDER A TEMPORARY JOB

A temporary job is a good option if you can’t afford to be out of work, Dobroski said. Lyons also recommends temporary jobs and says you should include them in your resume if they showcase skills that match your desired full-time job, such as leadership or organizational skills.

“It shows that you have grit, that you’re willing to work hard and take care of your responsibilities,” she said.

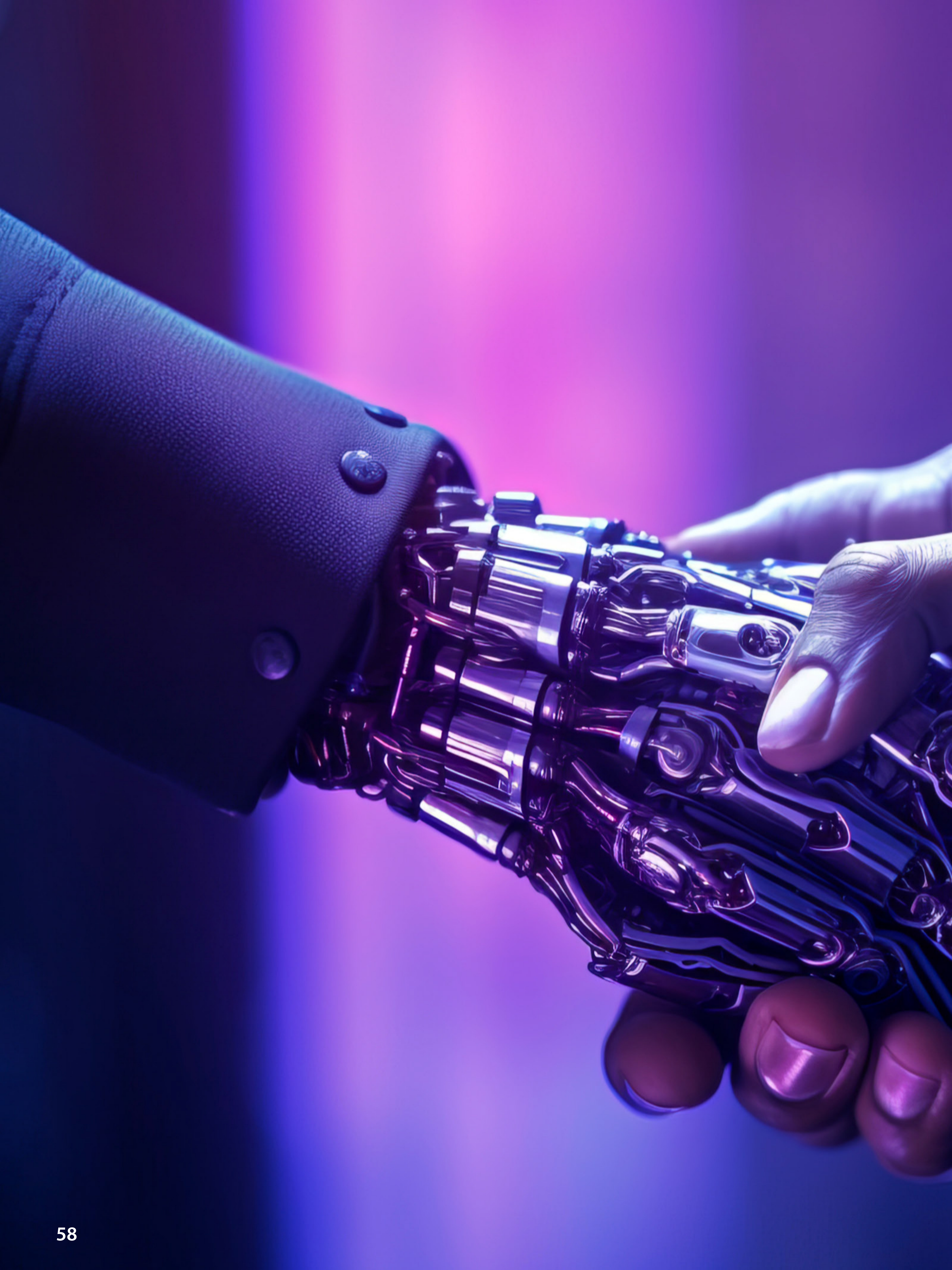
ClearVPN



The only VPN you'll ever need

Get ClearVPN

PHONE ACCESSORY
SUPER DEALS
UP TO ~~50% OFF~~
Lightinthebox.com
One World, One Market
Offering high quality products in best price for global customers



MICROSOFT PROFITSOARS 33% ON AI, CLOUD-COMPUTING INVESTMENTS

Microsoft Corp. said this week that its profit for the October-December quarter soared 33%, powered by its significant investments in artificial intelligence technology. The company said that increase largely reflected growth in its cloud-computing unit, where Microsoft focuses most of its AI investments.

The company reported net income for the quarter of $21.87 billion, or $2.93 per diluted share, beating Wall Street expectations of $2.79 per share. The Redmond, Washington-based software maker posted revenue of $62.02 billion in the quarter, up 18% from $52.75 billion the previous year, also beating expectations.

“Microsoft is firmly establishing itself as a frontrunner in the AI race,” said Jeremy Goldman, director of briefings at Insider Intelligence. In addition to other benefits, Goldman suggested that AI technology could help expand Microsoft’s share of digital advertising. His firm anticipates that Microsoft’s worldwide ad revenues will grow 12% this year to $14.93 billion, but also notes that Google is expected to expand its much larger ad business by 10% in the same period.

Analysts polled by FactSet Research expected Microsoft to generate revenue of $61.14 billion, and currently project revenue of $60.97 billion for the January-March quarter. The results are the first to incorporate the finances of video-game maker Activision Blizzard, which Microsoft formally acquired on Oct. 13 for $69 billion.

That merger boosted Microsoft’s revenue growth by four points, according to James Ambrose, the company’s director of investor relations. But it also shaved operating profits by roughly $440 million as a result of purchase

crosoft

accounting adjustments and integration and transactions costs, he said.

Microsoft shares initially dropped in after-hours trading, falling almost 2% to $400.86, although they later recovered much of that loss. Analysts suggested that investors were initially concerned about Microsoft's continued aggressive investment plans.

Microsoft's cloud-focused business segment outgrew its other divisions, with revenue expanding 20% from the same time last year to $25.88 billion for the quarter.

Revenue from the company's Office suite of email and other workplace products, plus the LinkedIn professional social network, grew 13% to $19.25 billion for the quarter.

And the Windows-led personal computing business, which includes the company's Xbox video games and services, grew 19% to $16.89 billion. Those figures reflected the huge impact of adding Activision Blizzard to the segment. Microsoft's Xbox-related revenues grew by 61% in the quarter, although the company attributed 55 points of that figure to the addition of Activision, known for producing the enormously successful Call of Duty series of games.

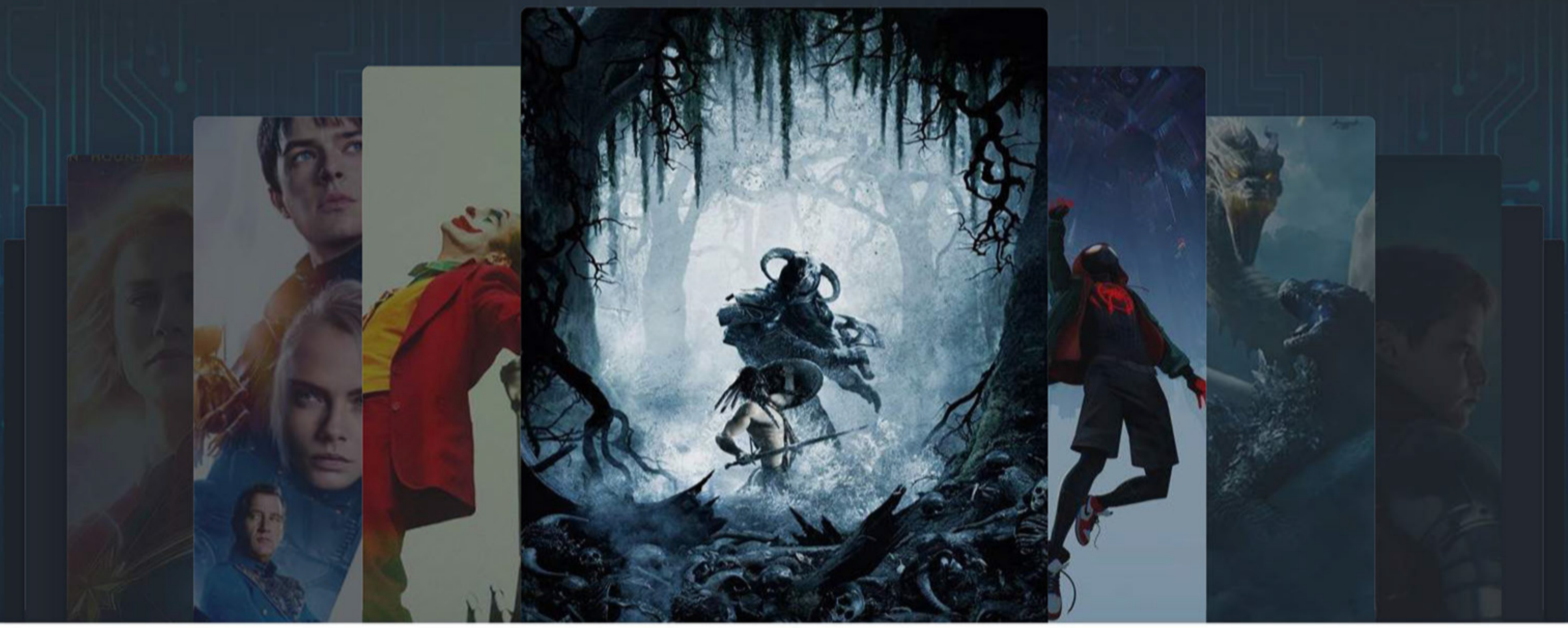
Digiarty
MacXDVD

56% OFF

MACX DVD RIPPER PRO

Convert any DVD Movies to Videos in 5 Minutes

Learn More >>



- Convert all old and new DVD movies to MP4, MOV.
- Convert DVD to all iPhone, iPad, Apple TV, Android, etc.
- Bypass DVD copy protections of all types of DVDs.
- Edit, cut, crop, merge video, add subtitle to video.
- No.1 fast speed, no quality loss thanks to GPU acceleration.

Buy Full Version
~~$67.95~~ for only $29.95

30 DAY 30 Day Money Back
Free Lifetime Upgrade
7X24 Tech Support

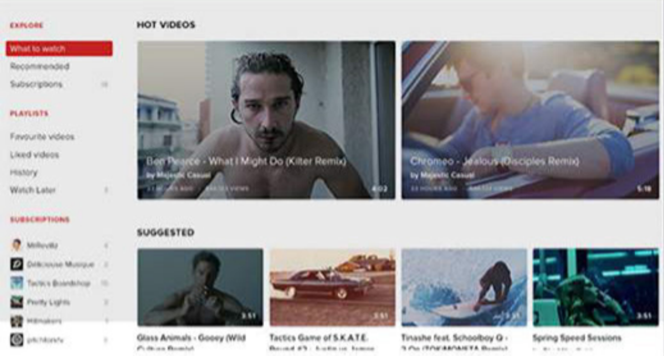
Digiarty
MacXDVD

50% OFF

MACX VIDEO CONVERTER PRO

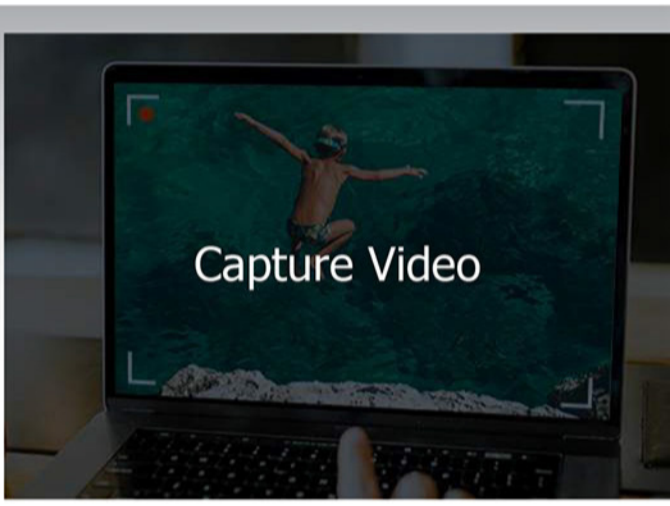
The Fastest Tool to Convert, Resize, Cut, Download 4K, HD Videos.

Learn More >>


Download

4K Support

Compress



- Convert 4K/HD videos to MP4, MOV for Apple, Android
- Download videos from YouTube and 1000+ sites
- Compress video file size without quality loss
- Edit video clips with a few clicks
- GPU acceleration tech, no. 1 fast speed.

Buy Full Version
~~$59.95~~ for only $29.95

30 DAY 30 Day Money Back
Free Lifetime Upgrade
7X24 Tech Support

EU Overhaul

APPLE’S EFFORTS TO KEEP USERS SAFE IN EUROPE DESPITE DMA

va
t
125K
Book your perfect getaway in one app
TripTrek
Travel Bucket L
Create your travel buc
13.8K
Travel Bucket,
Today
Games
Apps
Arcade

In a landmark decision, Apple has announced significant changes to its European Union operations, opening the App Store to comply with the EU's Digital Markets Act (DMA) and ushering in a new era of app deliverance and monetization on the iOS ecosystem.

9:41
cation planner
Cancel
TripTrek
Travel, track, and share.
Get
Travel Day, Inc.
Travel
Find all your reservations in one place
Casa Lisboa
Explore the city far and wide
Lisbon City Guide
ist
cket list.
Ge
Inc.
# 14 Travel
Search

Image: Amanz

APP STORE OVERHAUL

For the first time in its history, Apple is set to allow iPhone users in the EU to download apps from sources other than its own App Store. This paradigm shift could include access to rival platforms like the Google Play Store in a move designed to appease the European Union's Digital Markets Act (DMA). The implications are profound, signaling a move from Apple's walled-garden ecosystem towards a more open digital marketplace and allowing developers, publishers, and third-party app stores to offer their services away from Apple's usual tight grip. DMA was designed to "harmonize platform regulation across the EU and ensure fair and open digital markets." For the first time, it meant that Apple would no longer be in total control over how users download apps or pay for goods and services within those apps, potentially damaging a significant iOS revenue stream.

Another critical change is the introduction of more browser options. Since the introduction of iOS, users have been restricted to Apple's Safari browser. Indeed, even third-party apps and **browsers such as Google Chrome were forced to be built on top of the Safari API,** limiting innovation and ensuring Apple stayed at the top on iOS. With the new ruling and Apple's upcoming changes, users and developers can choose from an array of alternatives as their default. Users in the EU who update to iOS 17.4 will now be presented with a splash screen, allowing them to choose a new default browser. Some **options include Firefox, Opera, Chrome, Brave, and Microsoft Edge,** but the chances are that more browsers and firms will be added to the list in due course.

Home
App Store

Safari
Fire

Edge
Chrome
efox
Opera

Similarly, the monopoly of Apple Pay is set to end, with users given the freedom to opt for different payment systems. The news **comes off the back of several high-profile lawsuits and cases** in which Apple has been criticized for its monopoly over the iOS ecosystem and Apple Pay, with developers often having to cough up a large percentage to cover App Store and Apple Pay fees. The most notable example of this was the EPIC Games lawsuit, which saw the company criticize Apple and **ultimately resulted in the removal of Fornite from iOS.** Another example that has gained legs in recent years is Spotify, [https://www.zdnet.com/article/apples-just-a-monopolist-spotify-hits-back-over-revenue-split/] with the European streaming service claiming Apple forced the company to "artificially inflate the price of our Premium membership well above the price of Apple Music," an unfair and uncompetitive move that has potentially cost Spotify billions of dollars in lost revenue.

NEW MONETIZATION TECHNIQUES

Apple generates billions of dollars annually from its App Store and the commission it charges developers for premium apps and in-app purchases. Though it must comply with the new legislation to continue operating in the EU, it doesn't have to play clean. While these changes herald a new era of freedom and choice, they come with a significant catch. Apple **plans to introduce a "core technology fee" of €0.50 for each app installation,** a move that could fundamentally alter the app development and monetization landscape. This fee applies to all installations, including those

Spo

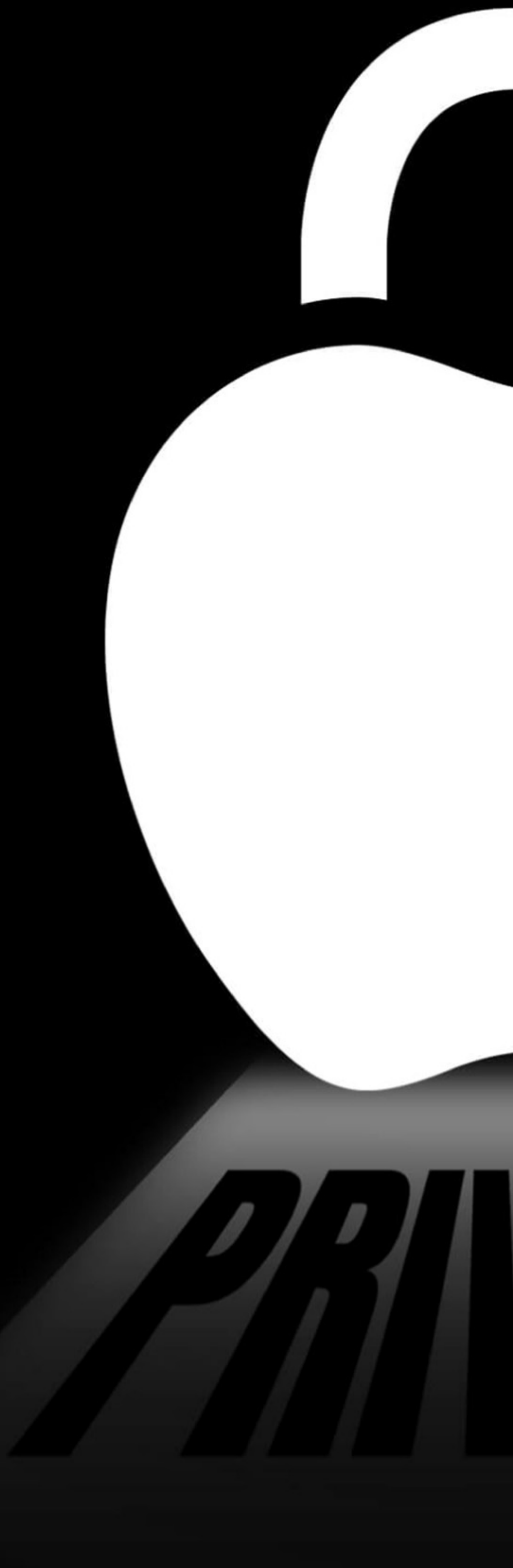
otify

from the App Store, if the app is also available through alternative means. It's a bold strategy that might reshape the economics of app development, especially for smaller developers and those relying on free-to-play models.

Spotify is one of the companies that has reacted to the changes with distrain, writing in a blog post on its website that “ Apple has been clear that they didn't like the idea of abiding by the DMA. **So they've formulated an undesirable alternative to the status quo.”** The company went on to add: “This is why many of the most popular developers will never be able to choose it. And for the developers who feel like they have no other alternative, it's a path that will punish their success. If Apple's already charging a commission of 17% (and 10% for recurring payments) on digital goods purchased, why would they also need to charge an annual flat fee for every user?” The company added that “Apple is making the DMA hurt even more for developers, throwing them an unworkable alternative that will stifle their businesses immediately” and that “this new tax on downloads could skyrocket our customer acquisition costs, potentially increasing them tenfold.”

The introduction of the per-installation fee presents a mixed bag for developers. While it offers an escape from Apple's commission fees, it introduces a new cost dynamic that could be particularly challenging for sectors like free-to-play gaming, which relies on a large user base with minimal direct monetization. Nikita Bier, founder of the Gas app, used Apple's fee calculator to show how much Apple will take

from apps subject to the Core Technology Fee. Speaking on X, Bier said that an app with $10 million in sales and 10 million downloads using the App Store's payment processor will be charged a whopping $515,942 monthly or $6.2 million - more than existing terms. The Coalition for App Fairness, led by Epic, said that the new plan "does not achieve the DMA's goal to increase competition and fairness in the digital market — it is not fair, reasonable, nor non-discriminatory" and added that legitimate developers were being forced "to choose between two anticompetitive and illegal options. Either stick with the terrible status quo or opt into a new convoluted set of bad terms for developers and consumers alike."



THE BALANCING ACT

Amidst these changes, **Apple has voiced concerns regarding the potential risks to user privacy and security.** The company argues that allowing sideloading and third-party app stores could open new avenues for malware, fraud, scams, and illicit content, compromising its ability to ensure a safe and secure environment for its users. This stance highlights a fundamental tension between opening up its ecosystem for compliance with EU regulations and maintaining the high standards of privacy and security that Apple users have expected. It could represent a broader damaging shift in the iOS and App Store ecosystems.

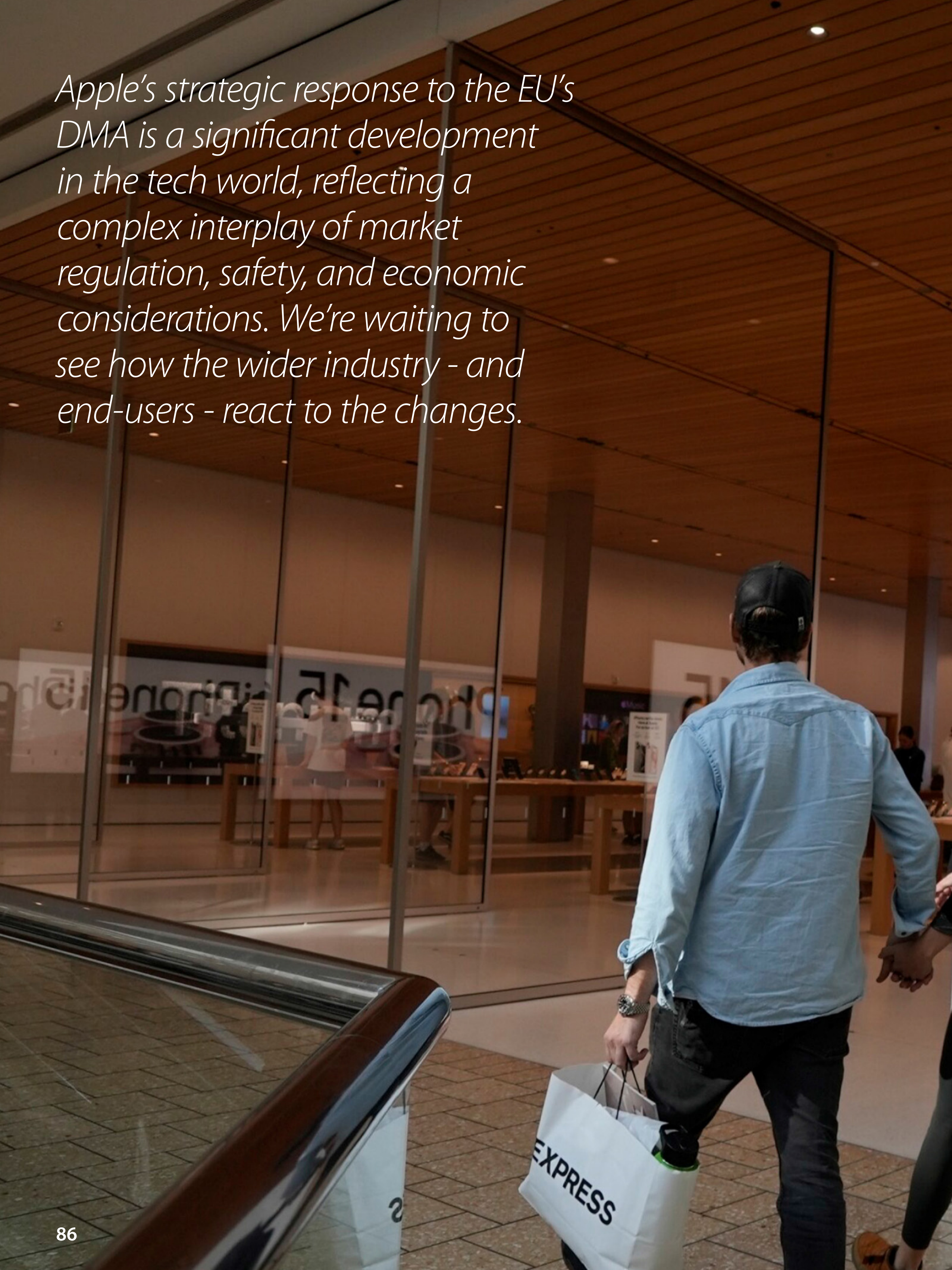
Books
Health
Settings
Face ID

Calendar
Photos
Camera
Clock
Maps
Weather
Stocks
iTunes Store
Home

While many developers are disappointed with the new changes, on the flip side, this new model could spur innovation. Developers might explore new monetization strategies or creative ways to engage users, potentially leading to a more diverse and vibrant app ecosystem. Plus, in its commitment to security, Apple plans to notarize all apps, ensuring a basic level of security. Additionally, developers who wish to offer their marketplaces must obtain Apple's approval, demonstrating their ability to conduct human reviews of apps.

Apple has clarified that features like refunds, family sharing, and other App Store-exclusive benefits won't apply to apps downloaded from external sources. This distinction underscores the value Apple places on its ecosystem's services and the security it offers. On a positive note, the new policy empowers users with more payment options and the ability to set third-party app marketplaces as their default choice. This flexibility extends to browser selection, breaking Safari's monopoly on iOS devices. In a notable fee restructuring, Apple will reduce its standard commission from 30% to 17% for apps sold via the App Store. This, coupled with the introduction of over 50 new reports on user engagement and commerce, indicates Apple's commitment to providing developers with valuable insights while adapting to the new regulatory environment.

Apple's strategic response to the EU's DMA is a significant development in the tech world, reflecting a complex interplay of market regulation, safety, and economic considerations. We're waiting to see how the wider industry - and end-users - react to the changes.



Run Your Private Cloud Office

All-in-one suite for your business

Make use of ONLYOFFICE online editors integrated with collaboration platform:
mail, CRM, projects, calendar and much more.

180-Day Free Trial

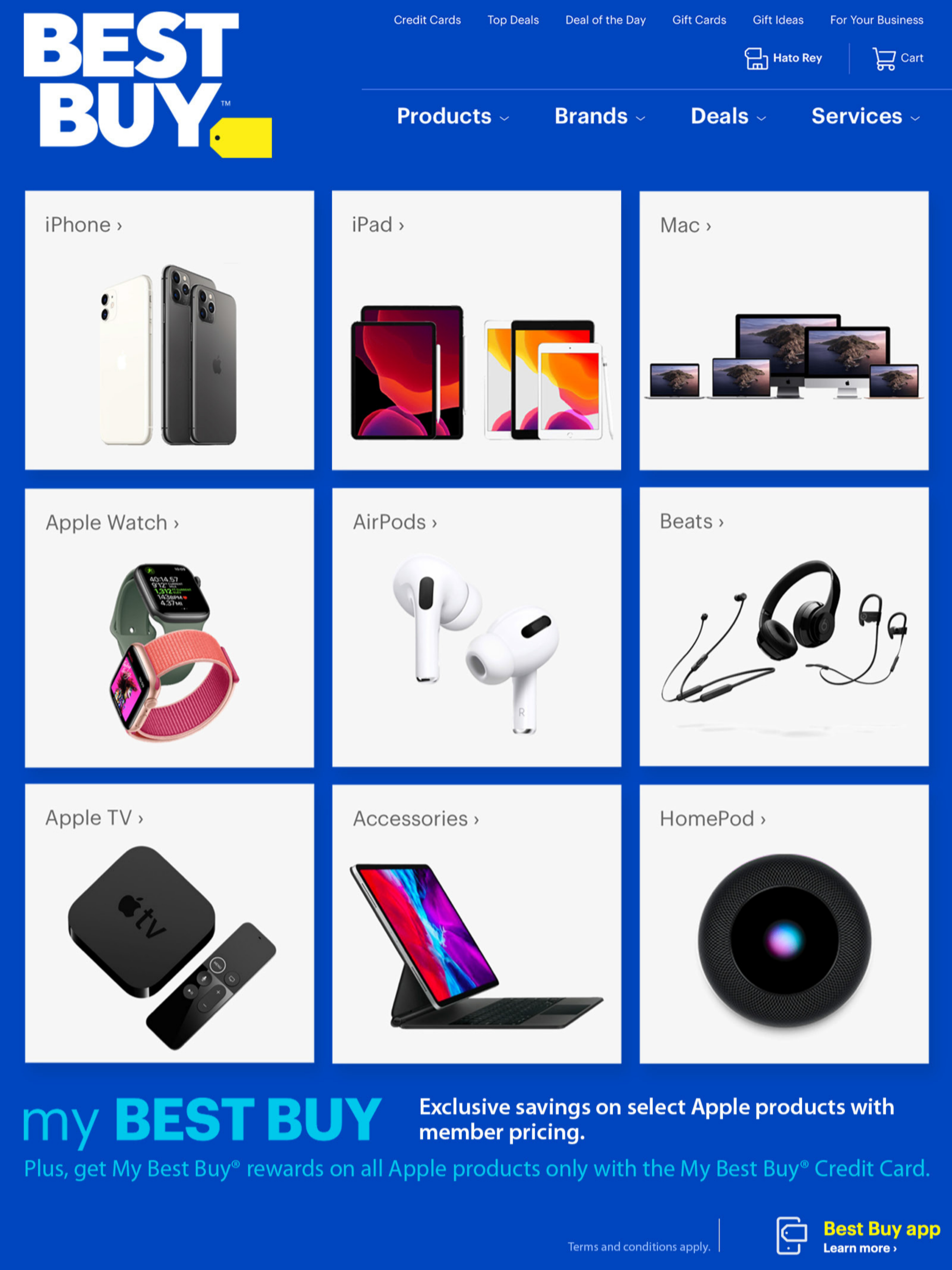
GET ONLYOFFICE NOW

ONLYOFFICE by Ascensio System SIA offers a powerful office suite that comprises online editors for text documents, spreadsheets and presentations highly compatible with Microsoft Office and OpenDocument file formats. ONLYOFFICE provides users with multiple editing tools and collaborative features ensuring greater team workflow, and seamless work with complex formatting and objects within your web solution.

100% compatible with MS Office formats

www.onlyoffice.com

ONLYOFFICE


BEST BUY™
Credit Cards
Top Deals
Deal of the Day
Gift Cards
Gift Ideas
For Your Business
Hato Rey
Cart
Products
Brands
Deals
Services
iPhone ›
iPad ›
Mac ›
Apple Watch ›
AirPods ›
Beats ›
Apple TV ›
Accessories ›
HomePod ›
my BEST BUY

Exclusive savings on select Apple products with member pricing.

Plus, get My Best Buy® rewards on all Apple products only with the My Best Buy® Credit Card.

Terms and conditions apply.

Best Buy app
Learn more ›

AMAZON SAYS PRIME DELIVERIES REACHED THEIR FASTEST SPEEDS EVER LAST YEAR

Amazon delivered packages to its Prime customers at the fastest speeds ever in 2023, the retailer said this week, thanks to better inventory placement, a new regionalization model for shipments and more same-day warehouses.

The company had indicated in public announcements and corporate earning calls last year that packages were arriving faster on the doorsteps of Prime members, who pay $139 per year – or $14.99 per month – for speedy deliveries and other perks.

prime
There's more to Prime.
A truckload more.
amazon

In a blog post on Tuesday, Doug Herrington, CEO of Amazon's worldwide stores business, provided more details on parcel shipments made during the holiday shopping season, which saw strong consumer spending despite price increases and high borrowing costs.

In the last three months of 2023, Herrington said Amazon increased the number of items it delivered the same day – or overnight – in the U.S. by more than 65% year-over-year. More than 70% of Prime orders arrived same day or the next across the Atlantic in the U.K.

Overall, Amazon said it delivered 7 billion items with same or next day shipping last year. The company declined to provide comparable figures on shipping data from 2022.

The e-commerce giant has credited speedier deliveries to improvements in inventory management and growth in its same-day delivery sites. The company currently has 55 of these sites in metro areas across the U.S. with plans to add more in the coming years.

Faster shipping is also being driven by a new operations network, which splits the country up into smaller regions and ships items from those areas. The new model – which follows a pandemic boom in the company's logistics footprint and subsequent cutbacks - also helps Amazon cut down on costs since packages travel a shorter distance and have fewer touchpoints.

Sarah Mathew, Amazon's vice president for delivery experience, said in an interview that the online retailer is continuously analyzing its regions – including the buildings and inventories within them - and plans to refine it to better serve customers.

Image: Brendan McDermid

But despite Amazon's focus on speed, some rural Prime customers have complained about slower delivery speeds.

The company relies on independent contractors as well as carriers like UPS to ship orders to customers. It's also been recruiting small businesses that can help it deliver directly to hard-to-reach rural areas.

When asked about rural deliveries, Mathew said the company is paying attention to anecdotal customer experiences but doesn't see a "general trend" showing a slowdown.

Amazon's focus on speed has put it in the crosshairs of labor advocates, who argue the company's fast-paced warehouses lead to more injuries among warehouse workers. The company's latest data from 2022 shows the rate of injuries or illness that occurred among Amazon's U.S. workforce fell that year. But it was still higher than it was in 2020.

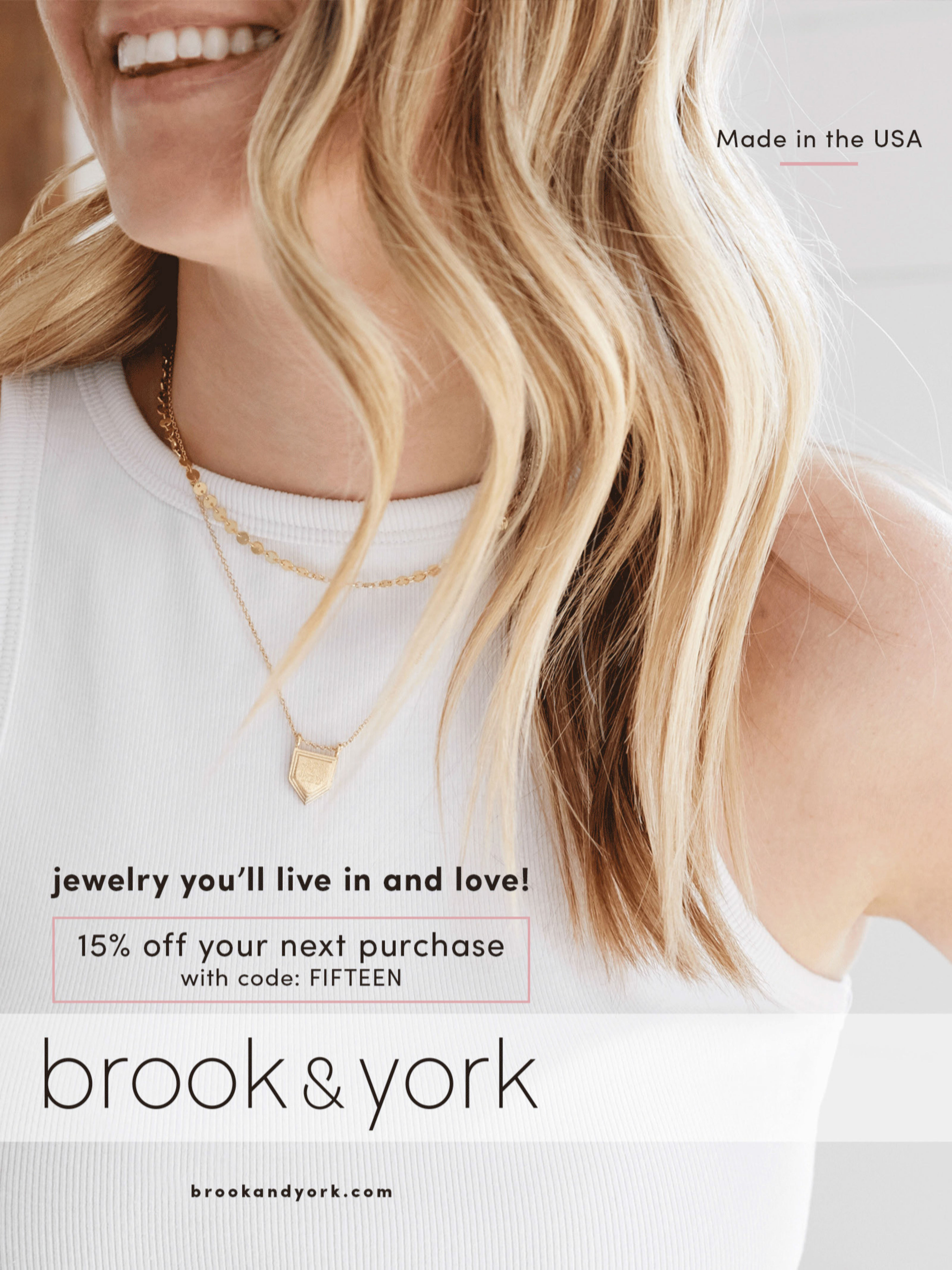
Last year, Amazon began testing a robotic storage system called Sequoia, which puts inventory into totes and presents it to employees so they don't have to bend or stretch as much. The company says the robot also reduces the time it takes to process an order by 25%.

Amazon is planning to roll out Sequoia to more warehouses this year. It declined to say how many facilities will benefit from it.

Other retailers, including Walmart and Target, have also been working to achieve faster shipments for online orders.

rime day
July 12-13
prime d

day
Two days
of epic deals
prime
prime day
July
12-13
prime da
ays
deals


Made in the USA
jewelry you'll live in and love!
15% off your next purchase
with code: FIFTEEN
brook & york
brookandyork.com

fromyouflowers.com

20% OFF SITEWIDE »

All gifts eligible for no contact delivery.

EXPLORING APPLE VISION PRO: INSIGHTS FROM TOP TECH EXPERTS

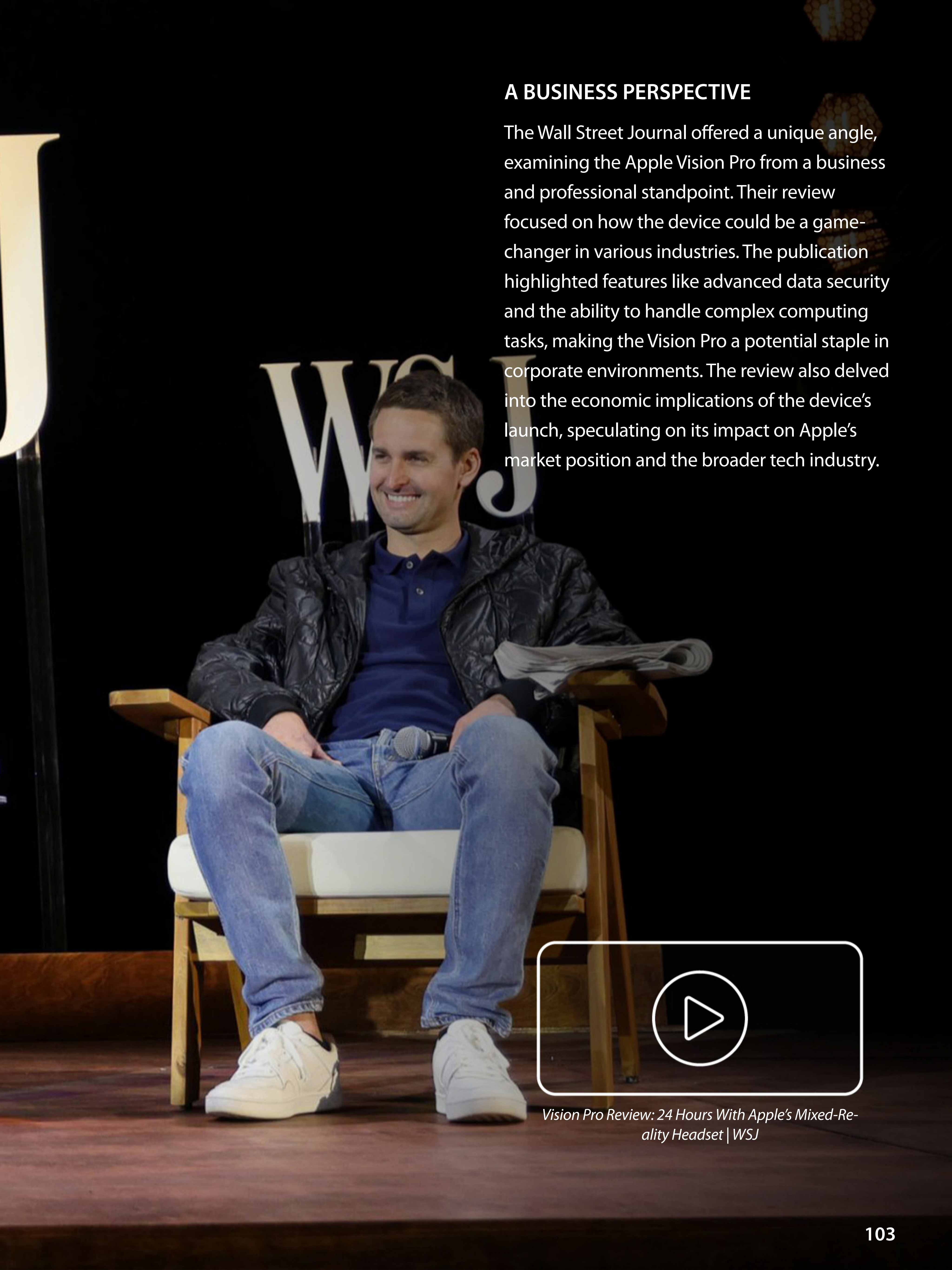
The Apple Vision Pro, one of the most buzzed-about gadgets of the year, has been unboxed and scrutinized by a cadre of leading tech influencers and media outlets. Marques Brownlee, The Wall Street Journal, Brian Tong, iJustine, and CNET have all shared their insights, providing a multifaceted view of this new Apple product. Their diverse perspectives not only shed light on the device's features and capabilities but also offer a broader understanding of its potential impact on the tech world.

Apple Vision Pro Unboxing!

DEEP DIVE INTO DESIGN AND USABILITY

Marques Brownlee, a household name in the tech review community, was among the first to unwrap the Apple Vision Pro. Known for his thorough approach, Brownlee meticulously explored every aspect of the device. He was particularly impressed with the build quality and design, noting that the Apple Vision Pro carries the signature sleekness of Apple products with an added flair of modernity. Brownlee's hands-on demonstration highlighted the device's user interface, praising its intuitiveness and fluidity. He appreciated the seamless integration with other Apple products, a hallmark of the brand's ecosystem.

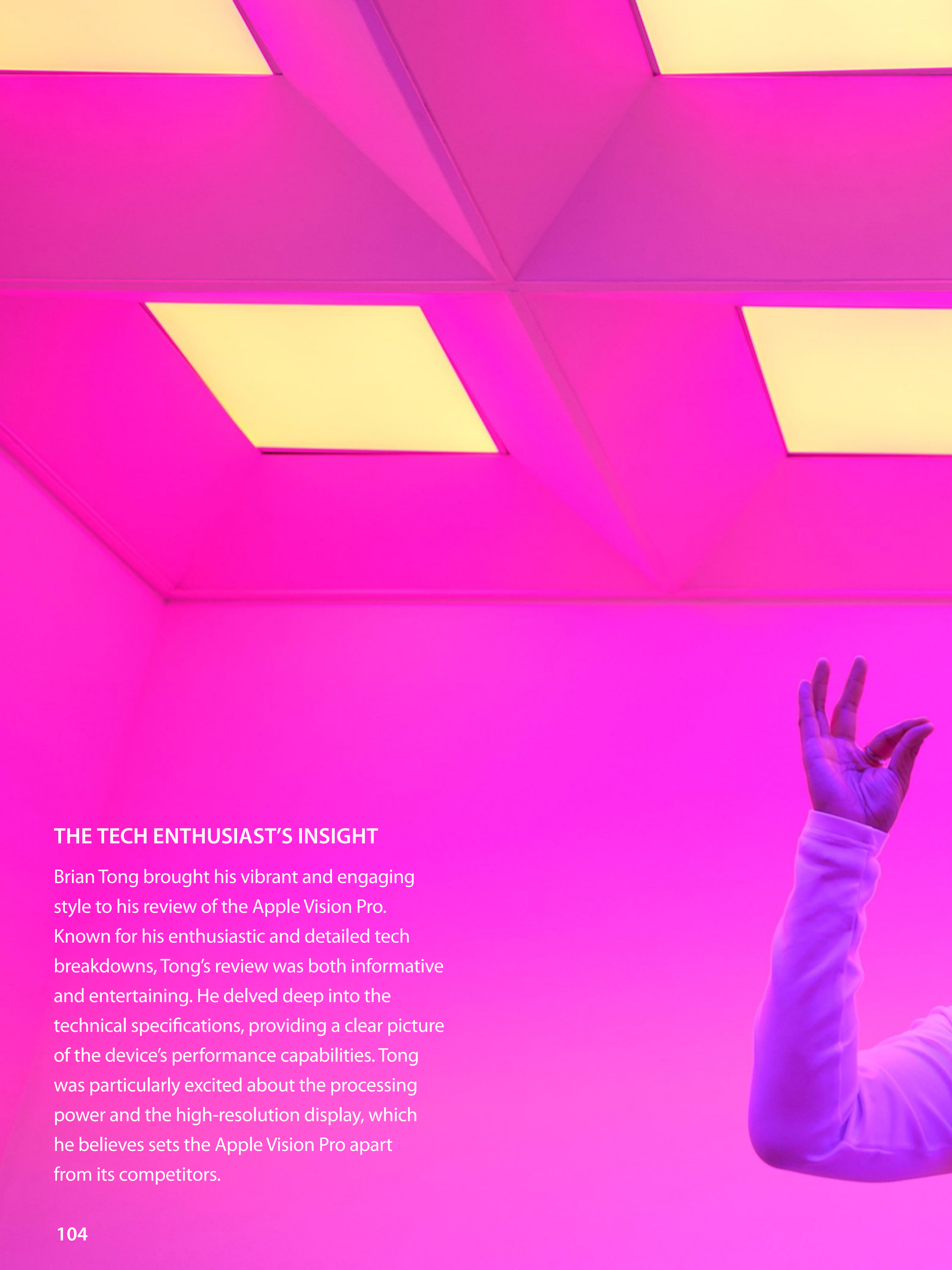
WSJ
WSJ
WSJ
WSJ



A BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

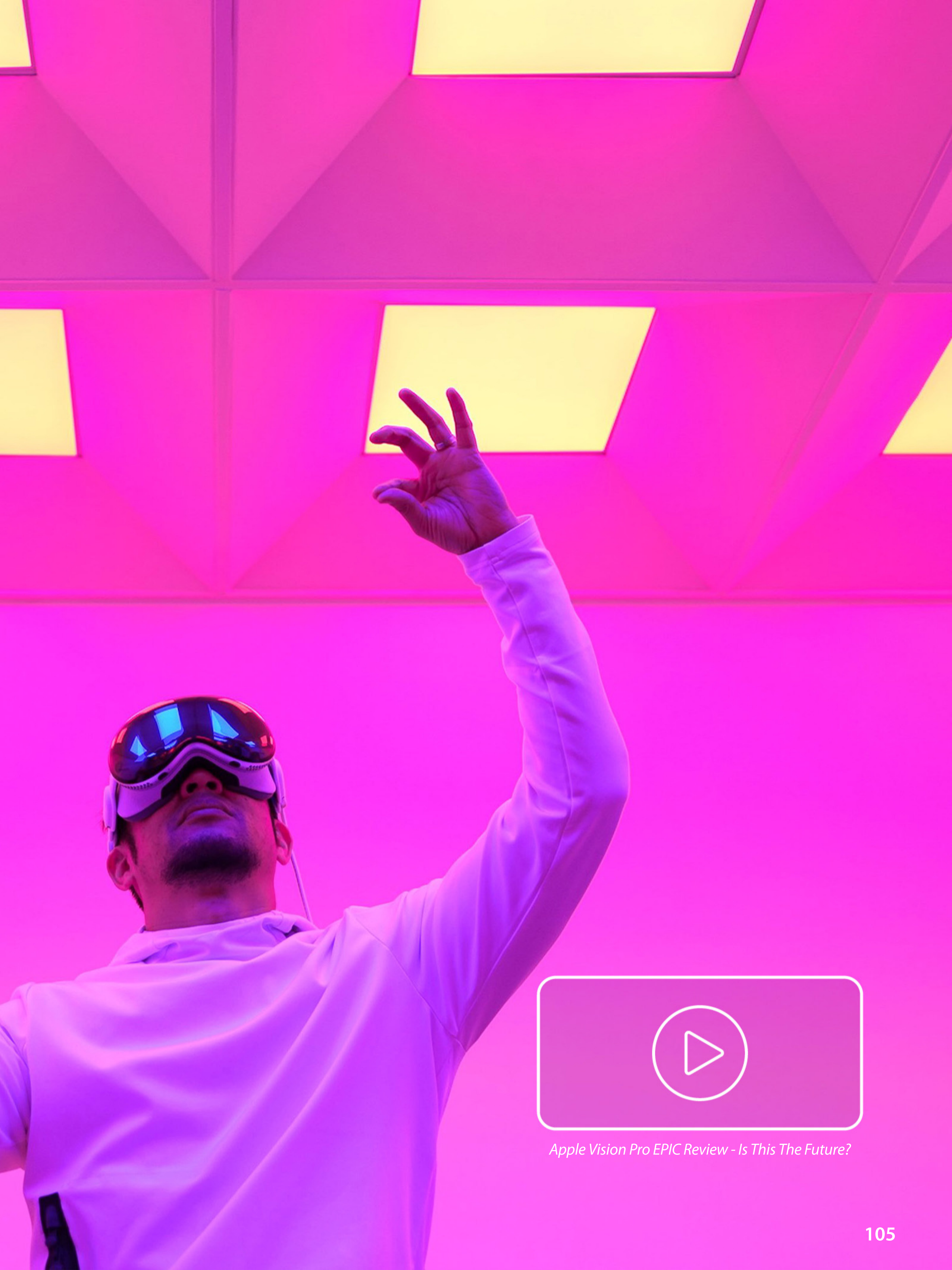
The Wall Street Journal offered a unique angle, examining the Apple Vision Pro from a business and professional standpoint. Their review focused on how the device could be a game-changer in various industries. The publication highlighted features like advanced data security and the ability to handle complex computing tasks, making the Vision Pro a potential staple in corporate environments. The review also delved into the economic implications of the device's launch, speculating on its impact on Apple's market position and the broader tech industry.

Vision Pro Review: 24 Hours With Apple's Mixed-Reality Headset | WSJ



THE TECH ENTHUSIAST'S INSIGHT

Brian Tong brought his vibrant and engaging style to his review of the Apple Vision Pro. Known for his enthusiastic and detailed tech breakdowns, Tong's review was both informative and entertaining. He delved deep into the technical specifications, providing a clear picture of the device's performance capabilities. Tong was particularly excited about the processing power and the high-resolution display, which he believes sets the Apple Vision Pro apart from its competitors.



Apple Vision Pro EPIC Review - Is This The Future?

Apple Vision Pro - Unboxing, Review and demos!

USER-FRIENDLY APPROACH

iJustine, with her user-friendly approach to tech reviews, focused on the accessibility and everyday use of the Apple Vision Pro. She explored how the device fits into the daily life of an average user, highlighting its ease of use and the range of applications it supports. iJustine's review was particularly insightful for non-tech-savvy viewers, offering a clear idea of how the Apple Vision Pro could enhance day-to-day activities, from entertainment to personal productivity.

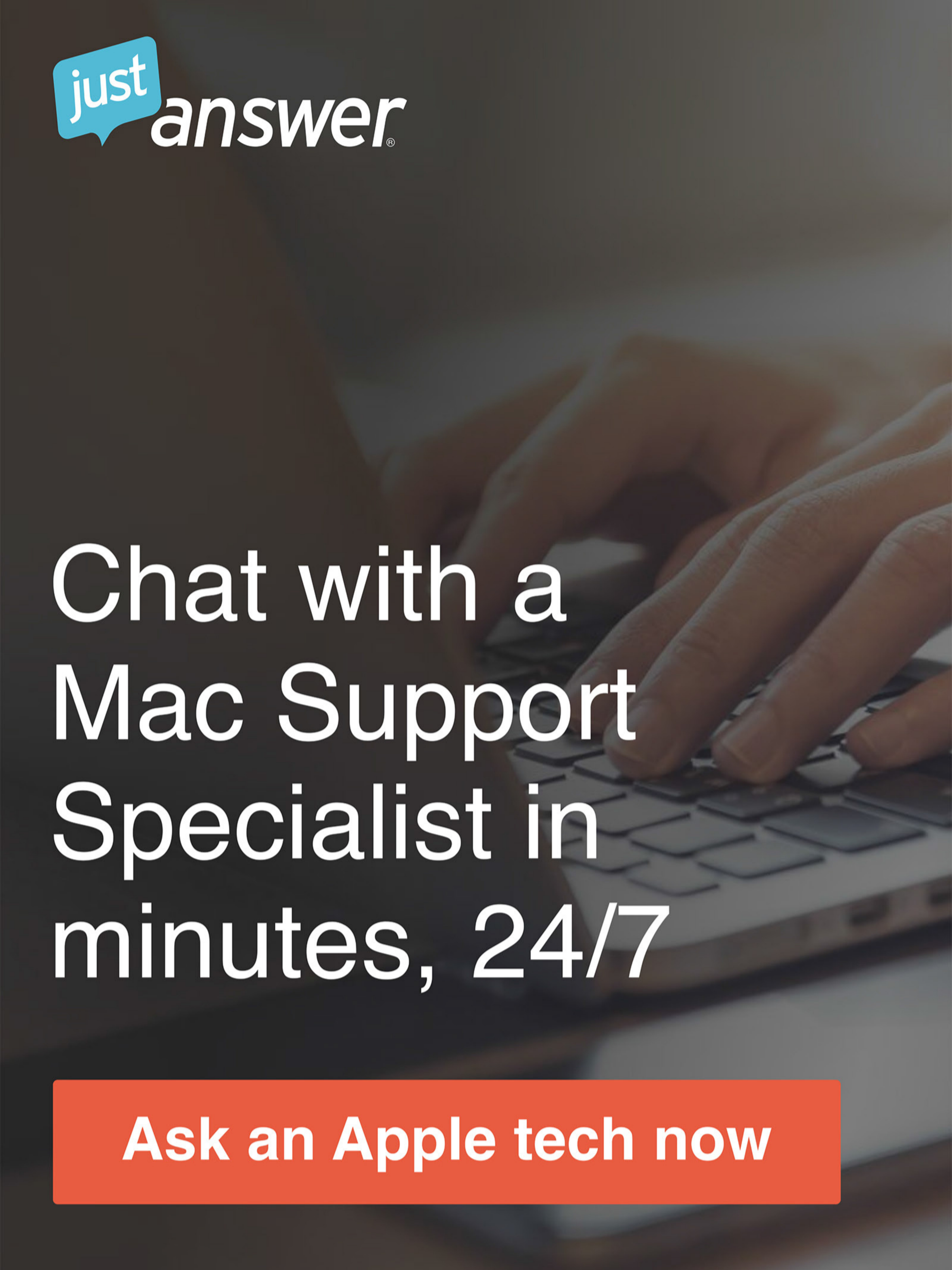
Apple Vision Pro Hands-On Review

A BALANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CNET, renowned for its balanced and comprehensive reviews, covered every facet of the Apple Vision Pro. Their review was a blend of technical analysis, user experience, and practical applications. CNET's assessment of the device's battery life, durability, and compatibility with other tech ecosystems provided a well-rounded view, helping potential buyers make an informed decision. They also touched on the future potential of the device, speculating on software updates and the integration of new features.

The varied reviews of the Apple Vision Pro by these top tech influencers and media outlets paint a detailed picture of the device. From its design and technical prowess to its practical applications and potential impact on the tech industry, the Apple Vision Pro stands out as a significant addition to Apple's product line.

Whether for a tech enthusiast, a business professional, or an average consumer, the Apple Vision Pro seems to offer something for everyone, setting the stage for its success in the highly competitive tech market.


just answer®
Chat with a Mac Support Specialist in minutes, 24/7
Ask an Apple tech now

PLUSH BEDS

CALIFORNIA

SHOP NOW

PLUSHBEDS
CALIFORNIA

WHAT YOU ACTUALLY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WINTERTIME DRIVING WITH AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE

As a big winter storm rolled across the United States in mid-January, many news outlets reported on drivers of electric vehicles dealing with dramatically reduced range and multi-hour waits at public charging stations. It's true that driving an EV in freezing weather poses extra challenges compared to a gasoline-powered vehicle. But it's also possible to employ techniques that can make EV winter driving less challenging. The car experts report on what you can do.

WHY EVS SUFFER IN WINTER DRIVING

Freezing temperatures slow down chemical reactions in batteries. You've likely experienced this with a regular car when its 12-volt battery struggled to start the engine. It's the same with an EV. Their batteries work best in warmer temperatures, and the vehicle will actually use some stored energy to warm up its battery if it's cold. An EV also needs to use its battery to run the cabin heater, heated seats and so forth. All of these issues can combine to noticeably reduce range.

How bad can it get? Expect a range reduction of 20% to 30% in very cold weather. That means an EV with a usual maximum range of about 250 miles might only have 175 miles in freezing temperatures, for example. Cold batteries also charge slower at fast-charging stations.

CHARGE AT HOME AS MUCH AS YOU CAN

If possible, keep the battery topped up by charging at home every day. While most automakers recommend keeping your EV charged to 80% for typical driving to enhance battery longevity, consider charging to 100% in winter conditions to give you the most range possible to help offset reduced range. By charging at home, you can avoid public fast-charging stations that might be crowded or not functioning optimally.

WHEN TO USE PUBLIC FAST-CHARGING STATIONS

EVs don't charge as quickly at high-powered charging stations in very cold weather, which can lead to delays. If you can't charge at home or at work, try using public charging stations during the least busy hours such as early in the morning or late at night to better avoid any long lines. Also make sure that your EV is set to precondition the battery before charging at a fast-charging station. In cold temperatures, EVs can heat their battery up to the optimal temperature needed for fast charging. This preconditioning uses some of the battery's power but will improve charging speeds.

KEEP YOUR EV'S BATTERY TOPPED UP

Charging frequently can help you be prepared in case of power outages or unforeseen traffic delays. For example, consider charging every day at home even if you don't really need to. For the reasons noted above, it might be harder to charge at a public location if you need to. But you can still look for convenient opportunities to charge when it's not a necessity. Just make sure you're not holding up other EV drivers who also might need to charge.

EV

START
STOP
START
STOP
EMERGENCY STO
DC
500V 120A
MENNEKES

PREHEAT THE CABIN AND BATTERY

One of the best tips for wintertime EV driving is to preheat the cabin before you drive. Not only does that make the car warm for you, preheating also warms the battery before you drive. It's best to preheat your EV while it's charging at home because it won't drain the battery's charge. Most EVs can preheat via an integrated smartphone app.

DRIVE EFFICIENTLY

With shorter range in winter driving, it's important to drive as efficiently as possible by using the Eco drive mode if your EV has one. It increases its efficiency by limiting its power. If you don't have an Eco mode, then one of the best ways to drive efficiently is by not accelerating quickly. If your battery is low, consider using the heated seats and heated steering wheel if you have them instead of the heater, which uses a lot of the battery's energy.

CONSIDER GETTING EV WINTER TIRES

Just as with gas-powered vehicles, swapping out an electric vehicle's all-season tires for winter tires can significantly improve traction and braking performance on snowy or slippery roads. Many tire manufacturers make winter tires specifically for EVs. It's also important to keep the tires inflated to the manufacturer's recommended level to get the best efficiency and winter weather performance.

Incorporating the above tips will make wintertime driving in an EV easier. But also check your vehicle's owner's manual for additional tips and recommendations for wintertime driving.

ALPHA

GOOGLE'S PARENT POSTS DOUBLE-DIGIT REVENUE GROWTH IN A QUARTER FOR FIRST TIME IN NEARLY 2 YEARS

19.18
Mondelez (MDLZ
Honeywell (HON)
BET
PRICE
VOL 1,383,
H $1,075.43 / 1:06pm L

Google's corporate parent returned to double-digit revenue growth during last year's final quarter, signaling the internet powerhouse has regained its footing even as it grapples with regulatory and competitive threats to its digital empire.

The results announced this week by Alphabet Inc. marked the third consecutive quarter of escalating revenue growth for the Mountain View, California, company, with most of the sales coming through Google's dominance of search and online advertising. The rebound followed an unprecedented drop in Google's ad revenue coming out of the pandemic following nearly 20 years of uninterrupted growth.

But the money flowing from Google's search engine and ad network are under attack in the courts, where regulators have been leveling allegations of abusive tactics that they contend is stifling innovation and competition. One case, brought by the U.S. Justice Department, went to trial last autumn, and will move to closing arguments in May.

Meanwhile, long-time rival Microsoft has been making inroads in artificial intelligence that have helped re-establish the nearly 50-year-old software maker as the world's most valuable company, while Google has been scrambling to roll out its own versions of a technology that is expected to transform the world.

For now, though, Google's moneymaking machine appears to be hitting on all cylinders. Alphabet's revenue for the October-December period climbed 13% from the previous year to $86.31 billion. It marked Alphabet's first quarter of double-digit revenue growth since

oogle

Micr

the April-June 2022 period, at the tail end of the pandemic.

Alphabet earned $20.69 billion, or $1.64 per share, in its most recent quarter, a 52% increase from the same time in the previous year. The robust gain came despite a $1.2 billion charge taken to account for more than 1,000 layoffs that the company has made since the start of this year, and its plans to pare its office space as more employees spend part or all of their time working remotely.

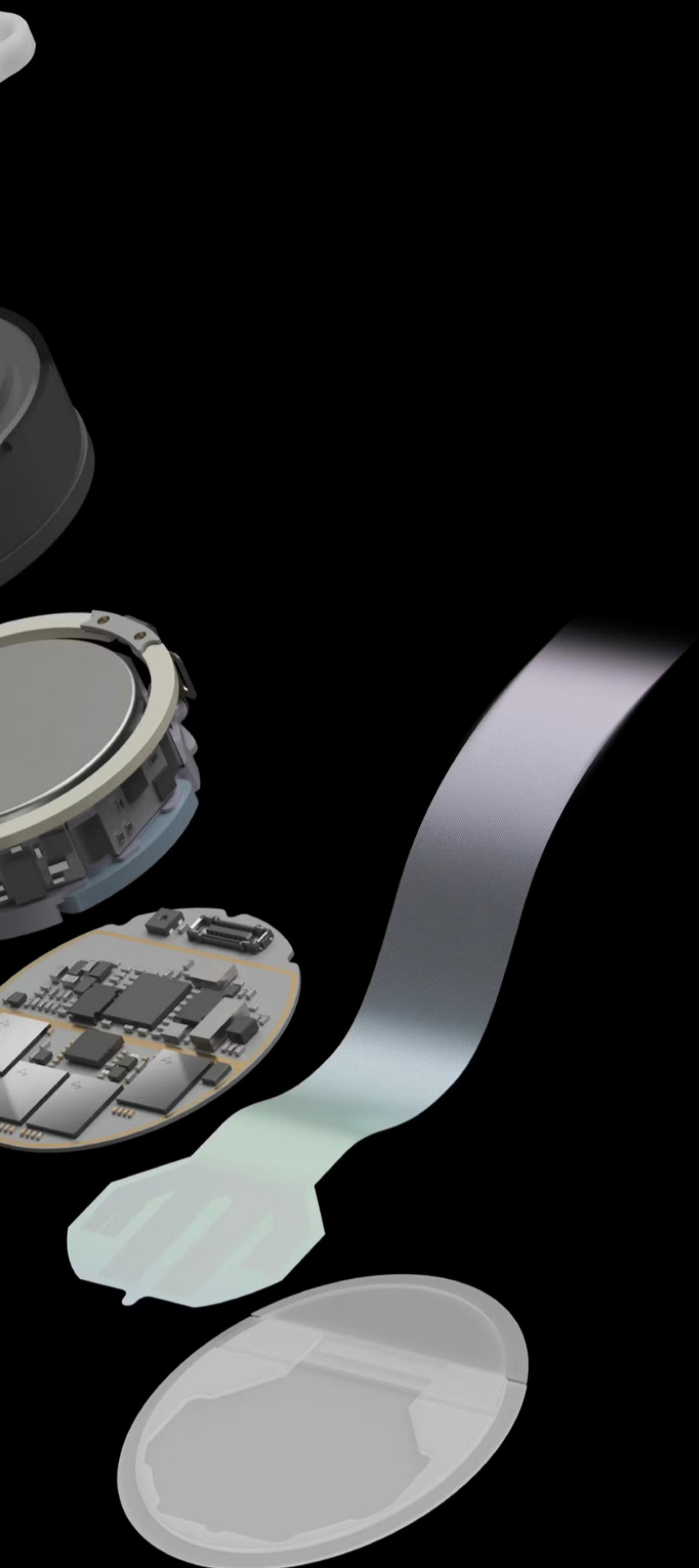
“We remain committed to our work to durably re-engineer our cost base as we invest to support our growth opportunities,” said Ruth Porat, Alphabet’s chief investment officer.

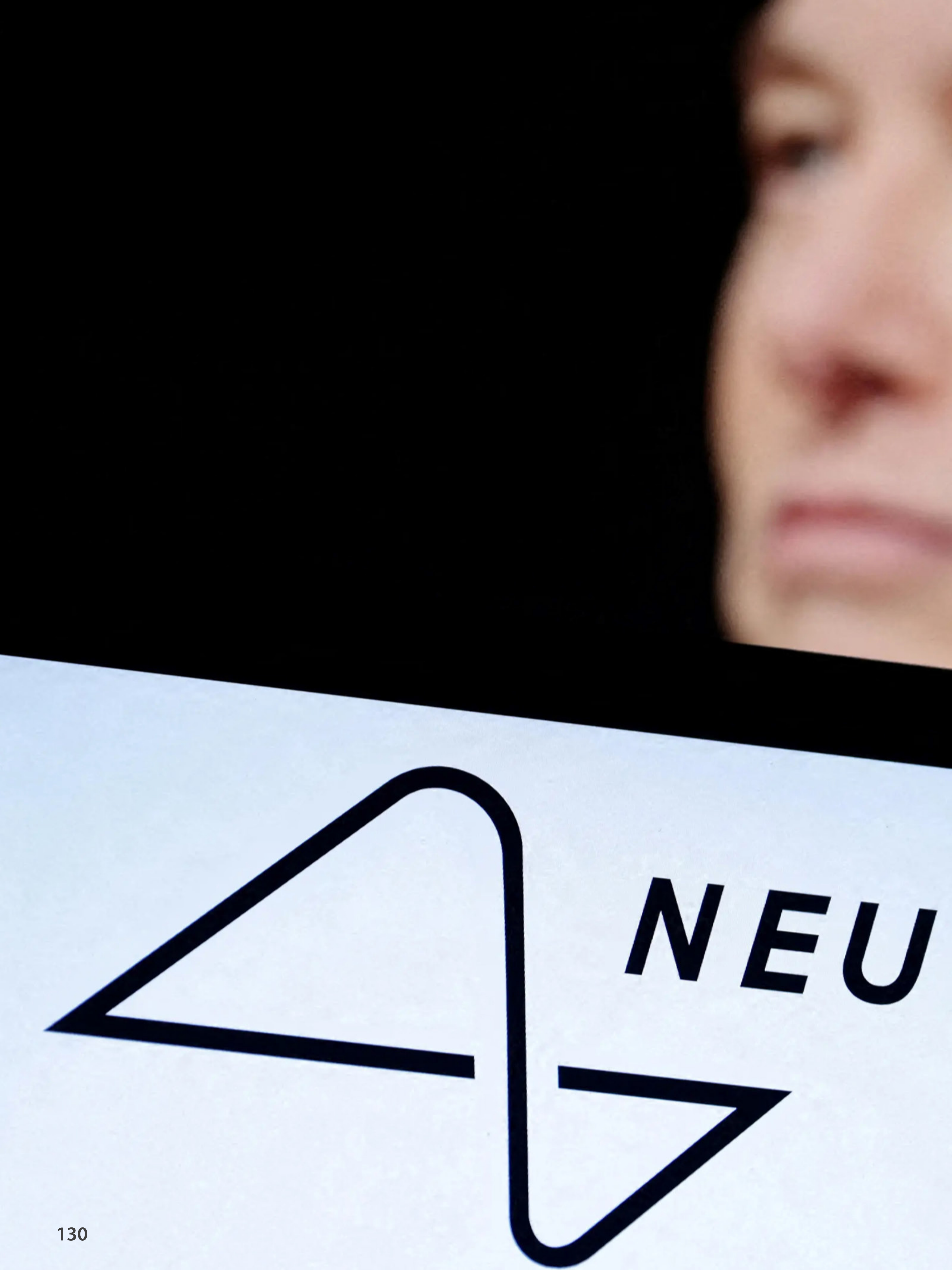
Both the fourth-quarter revenue topped the analyst projections that steer investors. Despite that, Alphabet’s stock price still fell more than 4% in extended trading after the numbers came out.

ELON MUSK SAYS THE FIRST HUMAN HAS RECEIVED AN IMPLANT FROM NEURALINK, BUT OTHER DETAILS ARE SCANT

According to Elon Musk, the first human received an implant from his computer-brain interface company Neuralink over the weekend.

In a Monday post on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, Musk said that the patient received the implant the day prior and was "recovering well." He added that "initial results show promising neuron spike detection."




NEU

The billionaire, who co-founded Neuralink, did not provide additional details about the patient. When Neuralink announced in September that it would begin recruiting people, the company said it was searching for individuals with quadriplegia due to cervical spinal cord injury or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Neuralink is one of many groups working on linking the nervous system to computers, efforts aimed at helping treat brain disorders, overcoming brain injuries and other applications. There are more than 40 brain computer interface trials underway, according to clinicaltrials.gov.

Neuralink reposted Musk's Monday post on X, but did not publish any additional statements acknowledging the human implant. The company did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Neuralink previously announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration had approved its "investigational device exemption," which generally allows a sponsor to begin a clinical study "in patients who fit the inclusion criteria," the FDA said. The agency pointed out that it can't confirm or disclose information about a particular study of this kind.

Neuralink's device is about the size of a large coin and is designed to be implanted in the skull, with ultra-thin wires going directly into the brain. In its September announcement, Neuralink said the wires would be surgically placed in a region of the brain that controls movement intention. The initial goal of the so-called brain computer interface is to give people the ability to control a computer cursor or keyboard using their thoughts alone.

In a separate post on X, Musk said that the first Neuralink product is called "Telepathy" — which, he said, will enable users to control their phones or computers "just by thinking." He added that intial users would be those who have lost use of their limbs.

It's unclear how well this device or similar interfaces will ultimately work, or how safe they might be. Clinical trials are designed to collect data on safety and effectiveness.

In response to Musk's announcement, King's College London professor Anne Vanhoestenberghe noted Neuralink has now joined a "rather small group" of companies that have implanted their devices in humans. But measuring success and safety will take time — and disclosure of more information from Neuralink.

"We know Elon Musk is very adept at generating publicity for his company, so we may expect announcements as soon as they begin testing, although true success in my mind should be evaluated in the long term, by how stable the interface is over time, and how much it benefits the participant," stated Vanhoestenberghe, who specializes in active implantable medical devices. She added there is "insufficient information" to gauge the procedure's safety at this time.

EPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVIC

FDA
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Food and Drug Administration

ELON MUSK CANNOT KEEP TESLA PAY PACKAGE WORTH MORE THAN $55 BILLION, JUDGE RULES

COURT OF CHANCERY
STATE OF DELAWARE

Elon Musk is not entitled to landmark compensation package awarded by Tesla's board of directors that is potentially worth more than $55 billion, a Delaware judge ruled Tuesday.

The ruling by Chancellor Kathaleen St. Jude McCormick comes more than five years after a shareholder lawsuit targeted Tesla CEO Musk and directors of the company. They were accused of breaching their duties to the maker of electric vehicles and solar panels, resulting in a waste of corporate assets and unjust enrichment for Musk.

The shareholder's lawyers argued that the compensation package should be voided because it was dictated by Musk and was the product of sham negotiations with directors who were not independent of him. They also said it was approved by shareholders who were given misleading and incomplete disclosures in a proxy statement.

Defense attorneys countered that the pay plan was fairly negotiated by a compensation committee whose members were independent, contained performance milestones so lofty that they were ridiculed by some Wall Street investors, and blessed by a shareholder vote that was not even required under Delaware law. They also argued that Musk was not a controlling shareholder because he owned less than one-third of the company at the time.

An attorney for Musk and other Tesla defendants did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

But Musk reacted to the ruling on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter that he owns, by offering business advice. "Never incorporate your company in the state of Delaware," he said. He later added, "I recommend incorporating in Nevada or Texas if you prefer shareholders to decide matters."

Musk, who as of Tuesday topped Forbes' list of the world's richest people, had earlier this month challenged Tesla's board to come up with a new compensation plan for him that would give him a 25% stake in the company. On an earnings call last week, Musk, who currently holds 13%, explained that with a 25% stake, he can't control the company, yet he would have strong influence.

In trial testimony in November 2022, Musk denied that he dictated terms of the compensation package or attended any meetings at which the plan was discussed by the board, its compensation committee, or a working group that helped develop it.

McCormick determined, however, that because Musk was a controlling shareholder with a potential conflict of interest, the pay package must be subject to a more rigorous standard.

"The process leading to the approval of Musk's compensation plan was deeply flawed," McCormick wrote in the colorfully written 200-page decision. "Musk had extensive ties with the persons tasked with negotiating on Tesla's behalf."

McCormick specifically cited Musk's long business and personal relationships with compensation committee chairman Ira Ehrenpreis and fellow committee member Antonio Gracias. She also noted that the working group working on the pay package included general counsel Todd Maron who was

TESLA
TC AUTO HUB

Musk's former divorce attorney.

"In fact, Maron was a primary go-between Musk and the committee, and it is unclear on whose side Maron viewed himself," the judge wrote. "Yet many of the documents cited by the defendants as proof of a fair process were drafted by Maron."

McCormick concluded that the only suitable remedy was for Musk's compensation package to be rescinded. "In the final analysis, Musk launched a self-driving process, recalibrating the speed and direction along the way as he saw fit," she wrote. "The process arrived at an unfair price. And through this litigation, the plaintiff requests a recall."

Greg Varallo, a lead attorney for the shareholder plaintiff, praised McCormick's decision to reverse the "absurdly outsized" Musk pay package.

"The fact that they lost this in Delaware court, it's a jaw dropper," said Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives. "It's unprecedented, a ruling like this. I think going in investors thought it was just typical legal noise and nothing was going to come out about it. The fact that they went head to head with Tesla and Musk and the board and voided this, it's a huge legal decision."

During his trial testimony, Musk downplayed the notion that his friendships with certain Tesla board members, including sometimes vacationing together, meant that they were likely to do his bidding.

The plan called for Musk to reap billions if Tesla, which is based in Austin, Texas, hit certain market capitalization and operational milestones. For each incidence

TESLA

of simultaneously meeting a market cap milestone and an operational milestone, Musk, who owned about 22% of Tesla when the plan was approved, would get stock equal to 1% of outstanding shares at the time of the grant. His interest in the company would grow to about 28% if the company's market capitalization grew by $600 billion.

Each milestone included growing Tesla's market capitalization by $50 billion and meeting aggressive revenue and pretax profit growth targets. Musk stood to receive the full benefit of the pay plan, $55.8 billion, only by leading Tesla to a market capitalization of $650 billion and unprecedented revenues and earnings within a decade.

Tesla has achieved all twelve market capitalization milestones and eleven operational milestones, providing Musk nearly $28 billion in stock option gains, according to a January post-trial brief filed by the plaintiff's attorneys. The stock option grants are subject to a five-year holding period, however.

Defense attorney Evan Chesler argued at trial that the compensation package was a "high-risk, high-reward" deal that benefitted not just Musk, but Tesla shareholders. After the plan was implemented, the value of the company climbed from $53 billion to more than $800 billion, having briefly hit $1 trillion.

Chesler also said Tesla made sure that the $55 billion compensation figure was included in the proxy statement because the company wanted shareholders to know that "this was a heart-stopping number that Mr. Musk could earn."

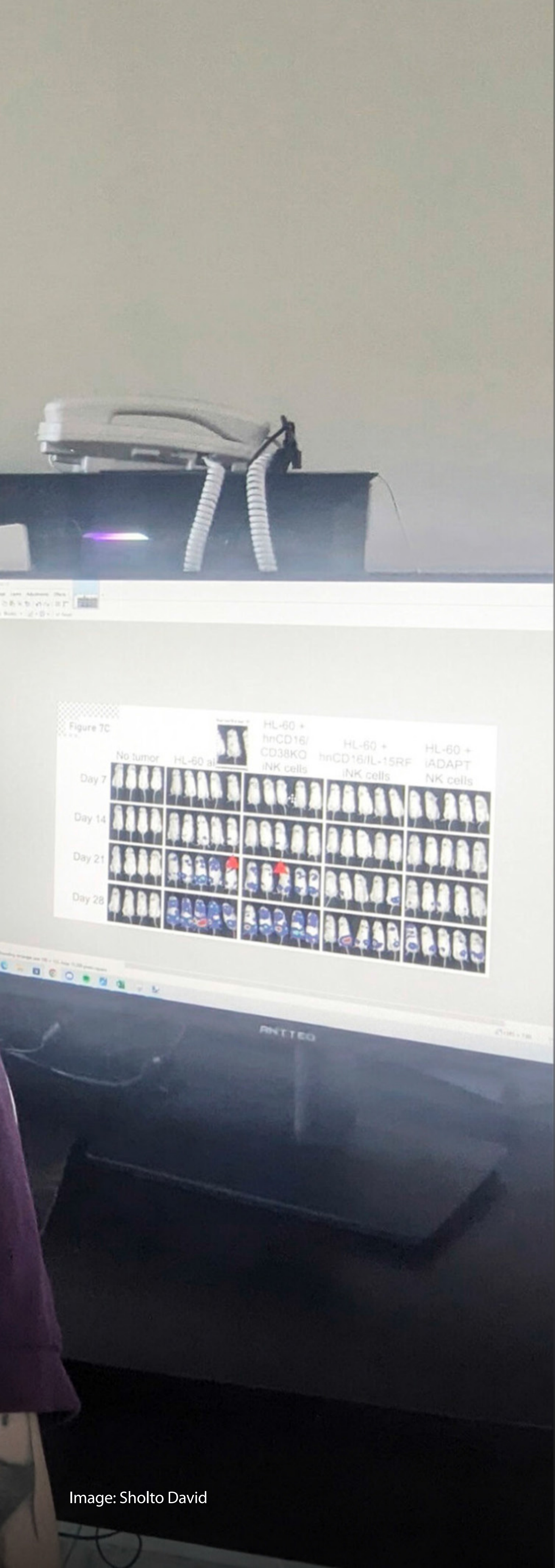


Figure 7C
No tumor
HL-60 al
HL-60 + hnCD16/ CD38KO iNK cells
HL-60 + hnCD16/IL-15RF iNK cells
HL-60 + iADAPT NK cells
Day 7
Day 14
Day 21
Day 28

Image: Sholto David

SCIENCE SLEUTHS ARE USING TECHNOLOGY TO FIND FAKERY AND PLAGIARISM IN PUBLISHED RESEARCH

Allegations of research fakery at a leading cancer center have turned a spotlight on scientific integrity and the amateur sleuths uncovering image manipulation in published research.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, a Harvard Medical School affiliate, announced Jan. 22 it's requesting retractions and corrections of scientific papers after a British blogger flagged problems in early January.

The blogger, 32-year-old Sholto David, of Pontypridd, Wales, is a scientist-sleuth who detects cut-and-paste image manipulation in published scientific papers.

He's not the only hobbyist poking through pixels. Other champions of scientific integrity are keeping researchers and science journals on their toes. They use special software, oversize computer monitors and their eagle eyes to find flipped, duplicated and stretched images, along with potential plagiarism.

A look at the situation at Dana-Farber and the sleuths hunting sloppy errors and outright fabrications:

WHAT HAPPENED AT DANA-FARBER?

In a Jan. 2 blog post, Sholto David presented suspicious images from more than 30 published papers by four Dana-Farber scientists, including CEO Laurie Glimcher and COO William Hahn.

Many images appeared to have duplicated segments that would make the scientists' results look stronger. The papers under scrutiny involve lab research on the workings of cells. One involved samples from bone marrow from human volunteers.

The blog post included problems spotted by David and others previously exposed by sleuths on PubPeer, a site that allows anonymous comments on scientific papers.

Student journalists at The Harvard Crimson covered the story on Jan. 12, followed by reports in other news media. Sharpening the attention was the recent plagiarism investigation involving former Harvard president Claudine Gay, who resigned early this year.

Image: Craig F. Walker

HOW DID DANA-FARBER RESPOND?

Dana-Farber said it already had been looking into some of the problems before the blog post. By Jan. 22, the institution said it was in the process of requesting six retractions of published research and that another 31 papers warranted corrections.

Retractions are serious. When a journal retracts an article that usually means the research is so severely flawed that the findings are no longer reliable.

na-Farber
ncer Institute

Dr. Barrett Rollins, research integrity officer at Dana-Farber, said in a statement: “Following the usual practice at Dana-Farber to review any potential data error and make corrections when warranted, the institution and its scientists already have taken prompt and decisive action in 97 percent of the cases that had been flagged by blogger Sholto David.”

WHO ARE THE SLEUTHS?

California microbiologist Elisabeth Bik, 57, has been sleuthing for a decade. Based on her work, scientific journals have retracted 1,133 articles, corrected 1,017 others and printed 153 expressions of concern, according to a spreadsheet where she tracks what happens after she reports problems.

She has found doctored images of bacteria, cell cultures and western blots, a lab technique for detecting proteins.

“Science should be about finding the truth,” Bik told. She published an analysis in the American Society for Microbiology in 2016: Of more than 20,000 peer-reviewed papers, nearly 4% had image problems, about half where the manipulation seemed intentional.

Bik’s work brings donations from Patreon subscribers of about $2,300 per month and occasional honoraria from speaking engagements. David told his Patreon income recently picked up to $216 per month.

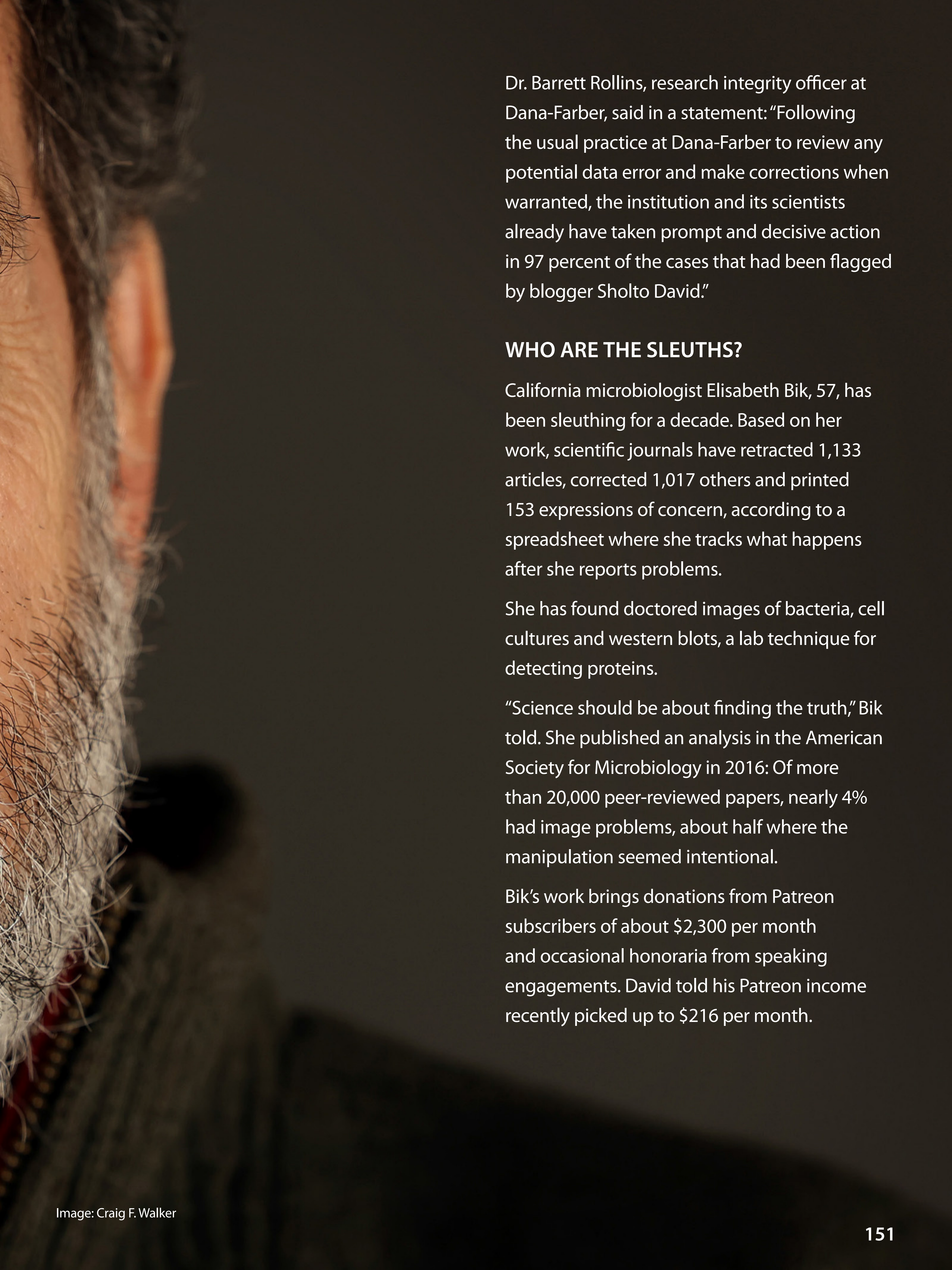


Image: Craig F. Walker

Dana-Fa
Cancer Ins
45
BROO

Image: Craig F. Walker

Technology has made it easier to root out image manipulation and plagiarism, said Ivan Oransky, who teaches medical journalism at New York University and co-founded the Retraction Watch blog. The sleuths download scientific papers and use software tools to help find problems.

Others doing the investigative work remain anonymous and post their findings under pseudonyms. Together, they have "changed the equation" in scientific publication, Oransky said.

"They want science to be and do better," Oransky said. "And they are frustrated by how uninterested most people in academia — and certainly in publishing — are in correcting the record." They're also concerned about the erosion of public trust in science.

50
OKLINE AVENUE
Dana-Farber
Cancer Institute

WHAT MOTIVATES MISCONDUCT?

Bik said some mistakes could be sloppy errors where images were mislabeled or "somebody just grabbed the wrong photo."

But some images are obviously altered with sections duplicated or rotated or flipped. Scientists building their careers or seeking tenure face pressure to get published. Some may intentionally falsify data, knowing that the process of peer review — when a journal sends a manuscript to experts for comments — is unlikely to catch fakery.

"At the end of the day, the motivation is to get published," Oransky said. "When the images don't match the story you're trying to tell, you beautify them."

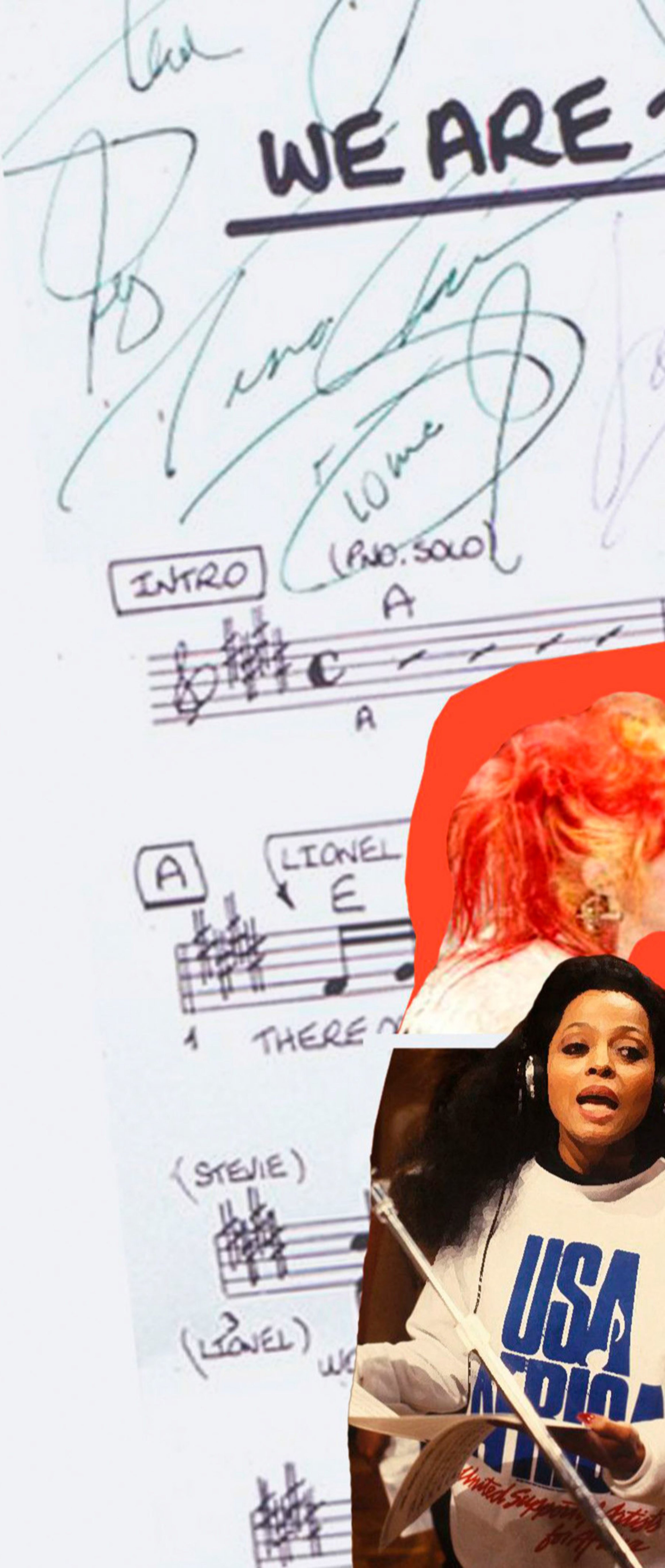
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

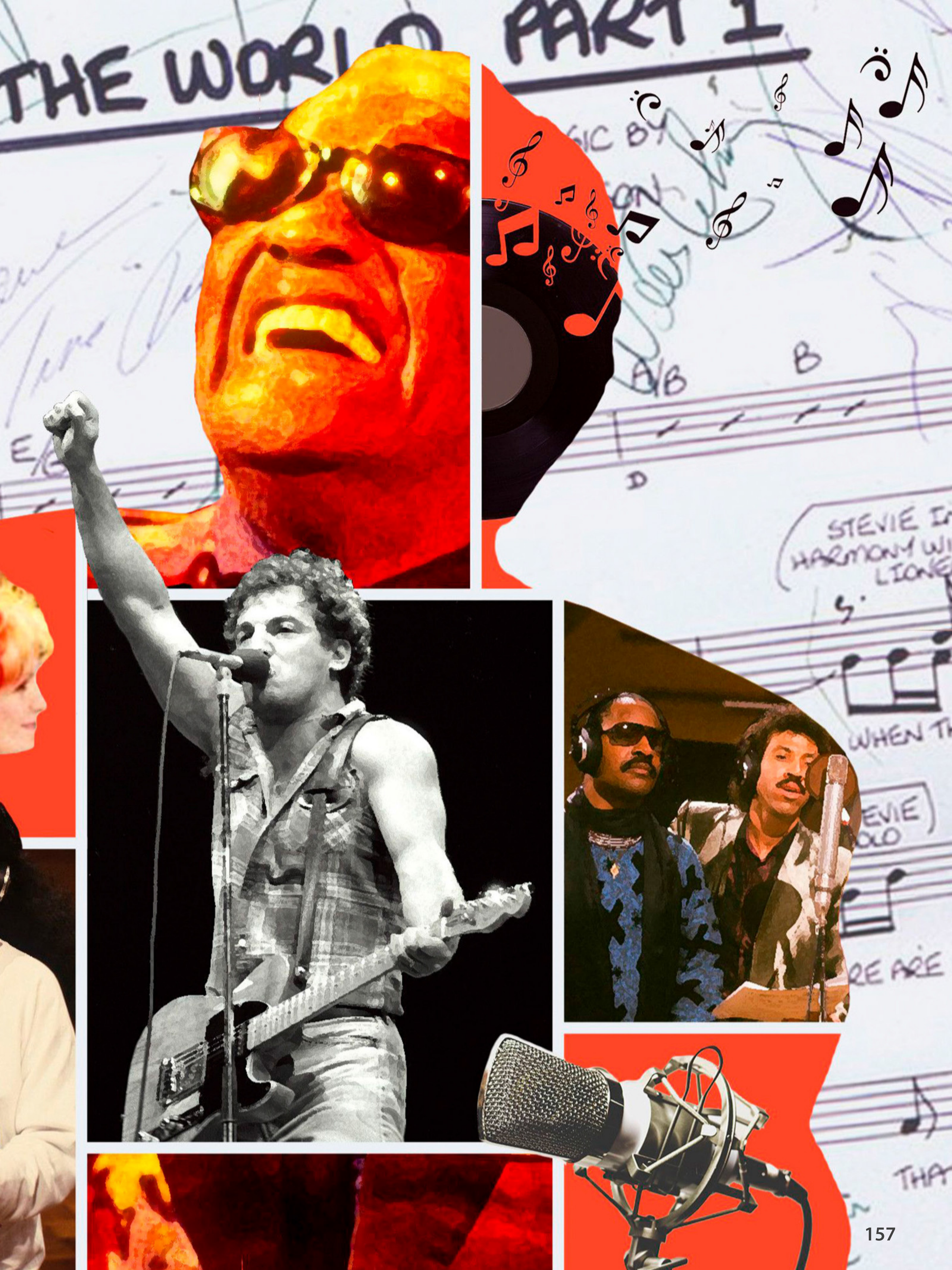
Scientific journals investigate errors brought to their attention but usually keep their processes confidential until they take action with a retraction or correction.

Some journals told they are aware of the concerns raised by David's blog post and were looking into the matter.

100/1.25
160/0.17

DOCUMENTARY ON 'WE ARE THE WORLD' GOES DEEP INSIDE RECORDING SESSION OF STARRY 1985 CHARITY SINGLE


WE ARE
INTRO
(PNO. SOLO)
A
A
A
LIONEL
E
THERE
(STEVIE)
(LIONEL)
USA
AFRICA
United Support of Artists for Africa


THE WORLD PART 1
SIC BY
ON
A/B
B
E
D
STEVIE IN HARMONY WI LIONE
WHEN TH
EVIE OLO
RE ARE
THA

Thirty-nine years ago, the biggest music stars in the world crammed into a recording studio in Los Angeles for an all-night session that they hoped might alter music history.

"We Are the World" was a 1985 charity single for African famine relief that included the voices of Michael Jackson, Willie Nelson, Bob Dylan, Ray Charles, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Paul Simon, Tina Turner, Dionne Warwick, Lionel Richie, Billy Joel and Bruce Springsteen.

Fans get a chance to almost step into that recording session this month with the Netflix documentary "The Greatest Night in Pop," a behind-the-scenes look at the complex birth of a megahit. It starts streaming Monday.

"It's a celebration of the power of creativity and the power of collective humanity," says producer Julia Nottingham. "The amazing thing about the song is it's such an inspiration for so many artists."

The filmmakers got fresh insights after landing interviews with Richie, Springsteen, Robinson, Cyndi Lauper, Kenny Loggins, Dionne Warwick and Huey Lewis — and for an added bonus spoke to them inside A&M Studios, the site of their triumph in 1985.

"I knew it was important to recreate those memories by just sort of walking into that room and what that energy created for them," said director Bao Nguyen, who was only 2 when the single came out.

The filmmakers married never-before-seen footage taken from four cameras that captured the USA for Africa session with audio from journalist David Breskin, offering insight into the dynamics and drama in the room that the official music video could not.

"The Greatest Night in Pop" isn't shy about exploring some of the more unflattering things, like Al Jarreau having a bit too much wine and how Dylan was out of his element, needing Wonder to mimic how the Nobel laureate might approach his solo.

Lauper accidentally prolonged the recording session because her jangling jewelry fouled up the recording, while Prince, who was at a Mexican restaurant on the Sunset Strip, offered to do an isolated guitar solo. Sheila E confesses she felt like she was invited to the recording session just to lure Prince in. In the end, Prince never made it, robbing the single of a Jackson-Prince double punch.

"For me, it was just important that we told a story that was honest," said Nguyen. "It is an honest story about the night and all the things that could have gone wrong — that did go wrong — but at the end of the day, it became this beautiful family."

The details in the doc are glorious: The image of Joel kissing then-wife Christie Brinkley before heading into the studio, and the nugget that Springsteen drove himself to the location in a Pontiac GTO. Other highlights: Watching singer-songwriter Joel explore an alternative lyric, the stars gathering around Wonder on a piano for the first run-through, and Richie, ever the ambassador, smoothing over potential disputes.

There's a moment when the 40-plus superstars are asked to groove from their knees and stop pounding their feet on the risers, which was throwing off the sound.

Unite
WE ARE THE WORLD · PART 1

The Greatest Night in Pop | Official Trailer | Netflix

USA
68
AKG

Producer Quincy Jones tried to head off any hubris by taping up a sign: “Check Your Ego at the Door.”

In an interview with the AP at the Sundance Film Festival, Richie recalled that having Charles there was helpful, since he was revered. The presence of Dylan also helped neutralize any griping.

“We got the right players to come in. And then once we realized we were trying to save people’s lives, then it’s not about us anymore,” Richie said. “But to deliver that in one night? An impossibility.”

The documentary anchors the effort in the activism of Harry Belafonte, who had raised the alarm about famine in Ethiopia, and having him in the studio singing “We Are the World” was poignant.

The group — exhausted and giddy in the wee hours — also serenaded the legend with a spontaneous version of Belafonte’s “Banana Boat,” with the lyrics “Daylight come and we want to go home.”

It is revealed that Loggins suggested that Huey Lewis replace Prince in the solos, right after Jackson. No pressure, right? “It was just one line, but my legs were literally shaking,” Lewis recalls in the movie.

There was a key moment when Wonder suggested that some lyrics be sung in Swahili, an idea that prompted Waylon Jennings to balk. The idea was scrapped when it was learned that Swahili wasn’t spoken in Ethiopia. There’s also footage of Bob Geldof, who was a driving force behind Live Aid, inspiring the group in a speech before the session. The Live Aid concert would happen that summer.

The documentary also goes back to explore the events before the recording, like that song co-writers Jackson and Richie were still working on it 10 days before the recording session on Jan. 28, 1985. Once in the studio, footage captures superstars — no assistants allowed — nervously hugging. "It was like first day at Kindergarten," Richie says.

The decision to pick that particular night to record the single was made in order to piggy-back off the influx of music royalty attending the American Music Awards, hosted by Richie, who performed twice and won six awards. The cream of the cream then made their way to the all-night recording session at A&M Studios.

Lauper, who dazzled everyone with her vocal prowess, was almost a no-show. Her boyfriend counseled her to skip the recording because he thought the single wouldn't be a hit. But Richie told her: "It's pretty important for you to make the right decision. Don't miss the session tonight."

Nottingham, the documentary producer, isn't sure such a similar recording session with music superstars could ever happen these days, especially with ever-present social media and armies of assistants.

"It was very ahead of its time in terms of it being the '80s and technology. But I would hope it would serve as an inspiration for other artists to keep trying and do these things for great causes."

TAYLOR SWIFT, BAD BUNNY AND OTHERS MAY VANISH FROM TIKTOK AS LICENSING DISPUTE BOILS OVER

Universal Music Group, which represents artists including Taylor Swift, Drake, Adele, Bad Bunny and Billie Eilish, says that it will no longer allow its music on TikTok now that a licensing deal between the two parties has expired.

UMG said that it had not agreed to terms of a new deal with TikTok, and plans to stop licensing content from the artists it represents on the social media platform that is owned by ByteDance, as well as TikTok Music services.

The licensing agreement between UMG and TikTok is expired as of Wednesday.

UNIV
UNIVERSAL
UNIVERSAL MUSIC

ERSAL
MUSIC
GROUP

Image: Pavlo Gonchar

In a letter addressed to artists and songwriters, UMG said that it had been pressing TikTok on three issues: "appropriate compensation for our artists and songwriters, protecting human artists from the harmful effects of AI, and online safety for TikTok's users."

UMG said that TikTok proposed paying its artists and songwriters at a rate that's a fraction of the rate that other major social platforms pay, adding that TikTok makes up only about 1% of its total revenue.

"Ultimately TikTok is trying to build a music-based business, without paying fair value for the music," UMG said.

TikTok pushed back against claims by UMG, saying that it has reached 'artist-first' agreements with every other label and publisher.

"Clearly, Universal's self-serving actions are not in the best interests of artists, songwriters and fans," TikTok said.

TikT

Yet Universal Music also called new technology a potential threat to artists and said that TikTok is developing tools to enable, promote and encourage AI music creation. UMG accused the platform of "demanding a contractual right which would allow this content to massively dilute the royalty pool for human artists, in a move that is nothing short of sponsoring artist replacement by AI."

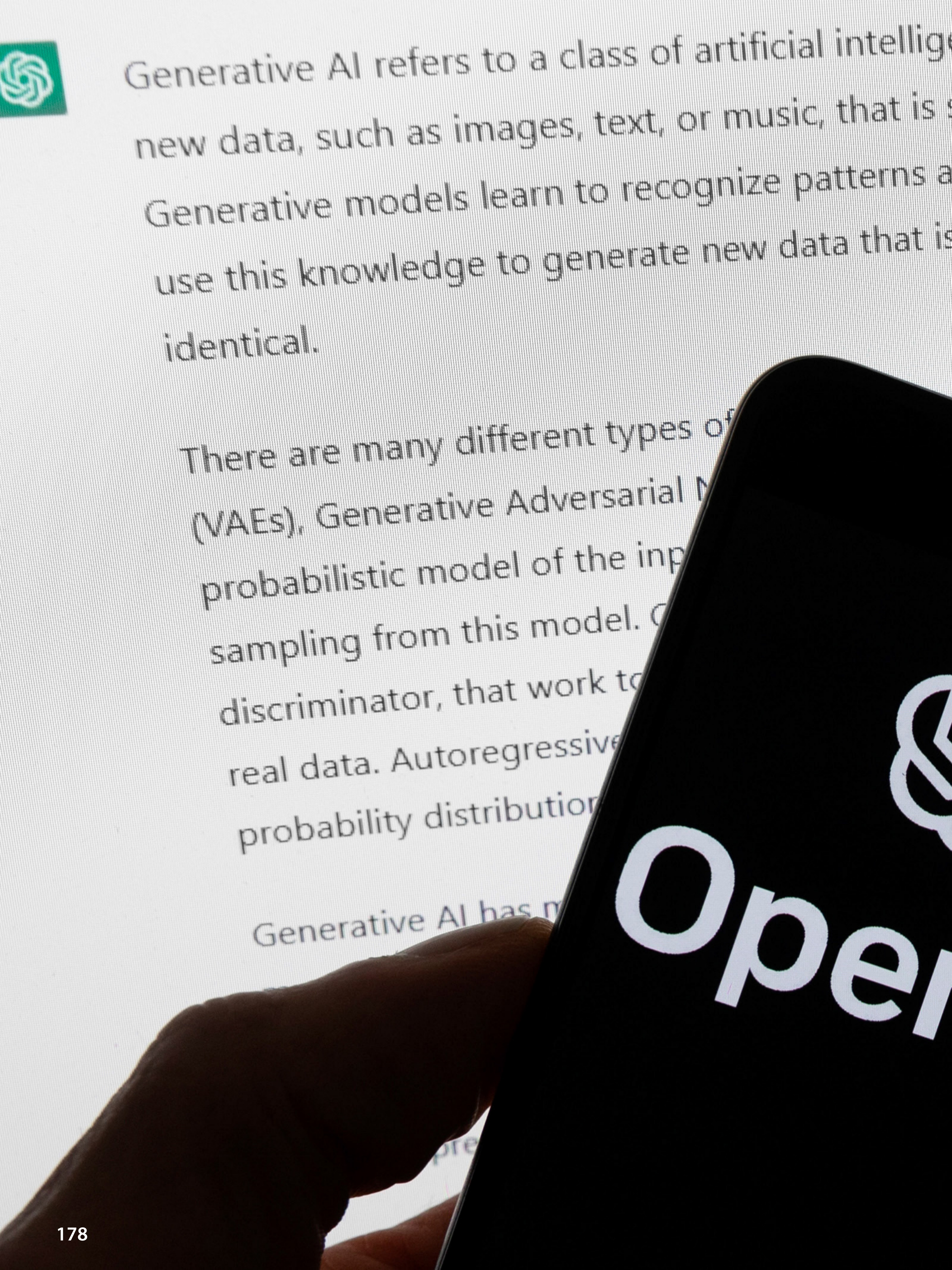
UMG also took issue with what it described as safety issues on TikTok. UMG is unsatisfied with TikTok's efforts to deal with what it says is hate speech, bigotry, bullying and harassment. It said that having troubling content removed from TikTok is a "monumentally cumbersome and inefficient process which equates to the digital equivalent of "Whack-a-Mole."

UMG said it proposed that TikTok take steps similar to what some of its other social media platform partners use, but that it was met with indifference at first, and then with intimidation.

"As our negotiations continued, TikTok attempted to bully us into accepting a deal worth less than the previous deal, far less than fair market value and not reflective of their exponential growth," UMG said. "How did it try to intimidate us? By selectively removing the music of certain of our developing artists, while keeping on the platform our audience-driving global stars."

TikTok, however said that Universal Music is putting "their own greed above the interests of their artists and songwriters."

CHATGPT VIOLATED EUROPEAN PRIVACY LAWS, ITALY TELLS CHATBOT MAKER OPENAI



Generative AI refers to a class of artificial intellige
new data, such as images, text, or music, that is
Generative models learn to recognize patterns a
use this knowledge to generate new data that is
identical.

There are many different types of
(VAEs), Generative Adversarial N
probabilistic model of the inp
sampling from this model. G
discriminator, that work to
real data. Autoregressive
probability distribution

Generative AI has m

ence (AI) models that can cre
similar to the data it was trai
nd relationships in the input
similar to the training data b
dels, including Variational A
regressive models.
new data
tor
istic i
tic dat
out the
deepfake
nAI

Italian regulators said they told OpenAI that its ChatGPT artificial intelligence chatbot has violated European Union's stringent data privacy rules.

The country's data protection authority, known as Garante, said this week that it notified San Francisco-based OpenAI of breaches of the EU rules, known as General Data Protection Regulation.

The watchdog started investigating ChatGPT last year, when it temporarily banned within Italy the chatbot that can produce text, images and sound in response to users' questions.

Based on the results of its "fact-finding activity," the watchdog said it "concluded that the available evidence pointed to the existence of breaches of the provisions" in the EU privacy rules.

OpenAI, which has 30 days to reply to the allegations, said it would work constructively with Italian regulators.

"We believe our practices align with GDPR and other privacy laws, and we take additional steps to protect people's data and privacy," a company statement said. "We want our AI to learn about the world, not about private individuals. We actively work to reduce personal data in training our systems like ChatGPT, which also rejects requests for private or sensitive information about people."

The company said last year that it fulfilled a raft of conditions that the Garante demanded to get the ChatGPT ban lifted.

The watchdog had imposed the ban after finding that some users' messages and payment

information were exposed and because ChatGPT didn't have a system to verify users' ages, allowing children to get answers from the AI tool that were inappropriate for their age.

It also questioned whether there was a legal basis for OpenAI to collect massive amounts of data used to train ChatGPT's algorithms and raised concerns that the system could sometimes generate false information about individuals.

The growing popularity of generative AI systems like ChatGPT are also drawing increasing scrutiny from regulators on both sides of the Atlantic.

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission opened an inquiry last week into the relationships between AI startups OpenAI and Anthropic and the tech giants that have bankrolled them — Amazon, Google and Microsoft. Competition regulators in the 27-nation EU and Britain, meanwhile, are also examining Microsoft's OpenAI investments.

AI systems also face broader oversight in the EU, which is finalizing its groundbreaking AI Act, the world's first comprehensive rulebook for artificial intelligence. The bloc's 27 member states are expected to endorse a version of the legislation.

iRo

iRobot | Roomba Combo

AMAZON CALLS OFF BID TO BUY VACUUM MAKER IROBOT AMID SCRUTINY IN EUROPE AND THE US

Amazon called off its proposed acquisition of robot vacuum maker iRobot this week as the deal faced antitrust scrutiny on both sides of the Atlantic, with the ecommerce giant blaming "undue and disproportionate regulatory hurdles."

The companies said in joint statement that they "entered into a mutual agreement to terminate their announced acquisition agreement" and expressed disappointment.

Amazon's announced in 2022 that it would buy iRobot, maker of the circular-shaped Roomba

Image: Jaap Arriens

vacuum, for $1.7 billion in cash. But the value of the deal fell 15% after iRobot incurred new debt.

Amazon will pay the Bedford, Massachusetts-based company a previously agreed termination fee, which wasn't disclosed in the statement. The same day, iRobot announced that it would now lay off about 31% of its staff and its CEO would depart.

The European Commission, the European Union's executive arm and top antitrust enforcer, had informed Amazon last year of its "preliminary view" that the acquisition of the robot vacuum maker would be anticompetitive.

While British antitrust regulators cleared the purchase in June, it still faced scrutiny in the U.S. by the Federal Trade Commission.

The European Commission did not respond immediately to a request for comment. It had been concerned that Amazon could reduce the visibility of a competitor's product or limit access to certain labels, such as "Amazon's choice," that may attract more shoppers.

The commission said last year that Amazon also might have found ways to raise the costs of iRobot's rivals to advertise and sell their products on its platform.

David Zapolsky, Amazon's general counsel, lashed out at regulators and said consumers would lose out on "faster innovation and more competitive prices."

"Mergers and acquisitions like this help companies like iRobot better compete in the global marketplace, particularly against companies, and from countries, that aren't subject to the same regulatory requirements in

fast-moving technology segments like robotics," he said.

He added that "undue and disproportionate regulatory hurdles discourage entrepreneurs, who should be able to see acquisition as one path to success, and that hurts both consumers and competition— the very things that regulators say they're trying to protect."

Now that the deal has been called off, iRobot said it will undergo a restructuring plan designed to stabilize the company. As part of those changes, the company will lay off roughly 350 employees.

iRobot Chairman and CEO Colin Angle also will step down from his role. Glen Weinstein, the company's executive vice president and chief legal officer, will serve as interim CEO.

iRobot
Roomba
CLEAN

U.S. SETS PLANS TO PROTECT ENDANGERED WHALES NEAR OFFSHORE WIND FARMS; FIRMS SWAP WIND LEASES

B2
B2
BIWF2
BIWF2

Two federal environmental agencies issued plans to better protect endangered whales amid offshore wind farm development.

That move came as two offshore wind developers announced they were swapping projects.

The U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released final plans to protect endangered North American right whales, of which there are only about 360 left in the world.

The agencies said they are trying to find ways to better protect the whales amid a surge of offshore wind farm projects, particularly on the U.S. East Coast. They plan to look for ways to mitigate any potential adverse impacts of offshore wind projects on the whales and their habitat.

The strategy will use artificial intelligence and passive acoustic monitoring to determine where the whales are at a given time and to monitor the impacts of wind development on the animals.

It also calls for avoiding the granting of offshore wind leases in areas where major impacts to right whales may occur; establishing noise limits during construction; supporting research to develop new harm minimization technologies; and making it a priority to develop quieter technology and operating methods for offshore wind development.

They also want to conduct "robust sound field verification" of offshore wind operations to ensure that noise levels are not louder than expected.

The news came about an hour before the companies Equinor and energy giant BP announced they were swapping leases for offshore wind projects in New York and Massachusetts.

The deal calls for Equinor to take full ownership of the Empire Wind lease and projects, and for BP to take full ownership of the Beacon Wind lease and projects.

The companies said the swap will be a "cash neutral transaction," although Equinor said it would take a loss of about $200 million.

"We now take full ownership of a mature, large-scale offshore wind project in a key energy market, where we have built a strong local organization," said Pal Eitrheim, an executive vice president at Equinor.

Equinor won the Empire Wind lease in 2017 and the Beacon Wind lease in 2019. In 2020, BP bought a 50% share of both projects.

Although opponents of offshore wind projects blame them for a spate of whale deaths over the past 13 months on the East Coast, the agencies said climate change is the biggest threat to the right whales. They and other scientific agencies say there is no evidence that offshore wind preparation work is harming or killing whales. Many of them have been struck by ships or become entangled in fishing gear.

Of the 360 right whales left in the ocean, only 70 are reproductively active females.

"Climate change is affecting every aspect of right whales' survival, changing their ocean habitat, their migratory patterns, the location and availability of their prey, and even their risk of becoming entangled in fishing gear or being struck by vessels," the agencies said in a statement.

In a separate report issued this week, NOAA said there were 67 confirmed entanglements of large whales nationwide in 2022, the most recent years

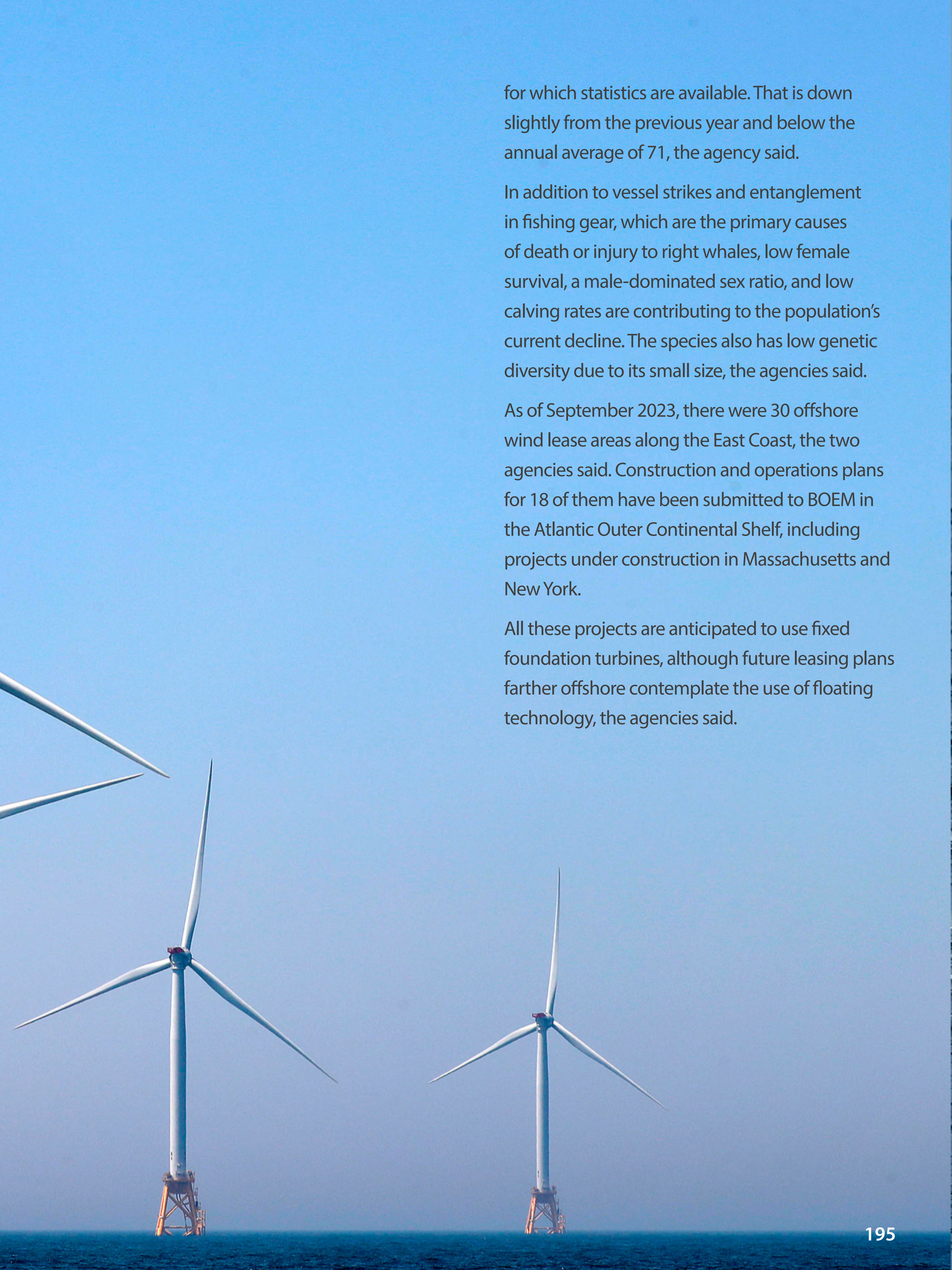
B2
B2

for which statistics are available. That is down slightly from the previous year and below the annual average of 71, the agency said.

In addition to vessel strikes and entanglement in fishing gear, which are the primary causes of death or injury to right whales, low female survival, a male-dominated sex ratio, and low calving rates are contributing to the population's current decline. The species also has low genetic diversity due to its small size, the agencies said.

As of September 2023, there were 30 offshore wind lease areas along the East Coast, the two agencies said. Construction and operations plans for 18 of them have been submitted to BOEM in the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf, including projects under construction in Massachusetts and New York.

All these projects are anticipated to use fixed foundation turbines, although future leasing plans farther offshore contemplate the use of floating technology, the agencies said.



YOUR BRAND HAS NEVER BEEN IN SUCH GOOD COMPANY

ads@techlifenews.com

MindfieldDigital™

MASTHEAD

TECHLIFE NEWS INTERNATIONAL
TechLifeNewsMagazine.com

SOCIAL NETWORKS

Twitter
@Techlife_News
twitter.com/#!/Techlife_News

Facebook
facebook.com/TechlifeNews

SUBSCRIPTIONS

TechLife News Website
techlifenewsmagazine.com

iTunes App Store™ / Newsstand
itunes.apple.com/app/techlife-news/id529054466?mt=8

CONTACTS

Executive Director - ceo@techlifenewsmagazine.com
Relationship Management - crm@techlifenewsmagazine.com
Editor - editor@techlifenewsmagazine.com
Advertise - ads@techlifenewsmagazine.com
Social Network - network@techlifenewsmagazine.com
Promotions - promo@techlifenewsmagazine.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ivan Castilho
Chief Executive Officer / Design Conception

MINDFIELD DIGITAL ART & GRAPHIC DESIGN

Milene Mencari
Graphic Production Coordinator

Natielly Dias
Graphic Design Producer

Saulo Cardoso
Graphic Design Producer

Ketlyn Hanna
Graphic Design Producer

Claudio Magalhaes
Graphic Design Producer

OFFICIAL WEBSITE

Jack Crute
Newsroom Production

MAGAZINE EDITORIAL CONTENT

Benjamin Kerry
Chief Editor

WRITERS

Precise English Inc.
Gavin Lenaghan
Craig Lenaghan
Shanon O'Dovovan

COLUMNS

DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT REVIEW
Gavin Lenaghan

FINANCE NEWS
Associated Press / Bloomberg

REVISION

Gavin Lenaghan
Jack Crute

PRODUCTION SUPPORT / COLLABORATORS

Rui da Costa
Segolene Vincent
Fabian Groenhof
Lise Berda
James Jarvis
Richard Sawyer
Lauren Brown
Matthew Coburn
Jeffrey Milks
Susan Kiesling
Raquel Serrano
Robert Fluellen
Lisa Swiniarski
Roger Gayalkar

Icy Ventura
Pilar Bescos
Candice Liu
Sharnae Hughes
Saikumar B
Ryan Szloch
Ryan Szloch
Ciera Chang
Trevor Carroll
Oscar Garcia
Jenny Marry
Sierra Simon
Sharon Ferraro
Devesh Kamal

PRIVACY POLICY

techlifenewsmagazine.com/privacy-policy/

TERMS OF USE

techlifenewsmagazine.com/terms-of-use/

TECHLIFE NEWS© Copyright 2021-2012. All Rights Reserved.

No part of the document may be circulated, quoted, or reproduced for distribution without prior written approval. Proper Trademark Notice and Attribution iPad, iPhone, Apple Watch, AirPods, AirTag, HomePod, Mac, iMac, Macbook, iOS, iPadOS, macOS are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Please contact support for additional trademark ownership rights information. The following is a list of Apple's trademarks and service marks http://www.apple.com/legal/ trademark/appletmlist.html. All other trademarks are the properties of their owners.

TechLife News is an independent publication and has not been authorized, sponsored, or otherwise approved by Apple Inc., Alphabet Inc., Google, Facebook, Microsoft Inc. or any other technology company or brand.

TechLife
NEWS

TechlifeNews.com